PLASTIC, PLEASE! Why gift cards are the hottest holiday presents | **Page 35**

express

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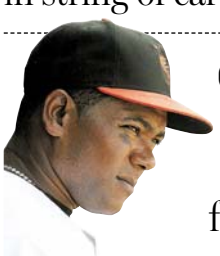
Thursday

FABRICE COFFRINI/AP

Ike Turner, ex-husband of Tina Turner, has died.

Ike Turner Dies: Tarnished musical legend dead at 76 | 6

Iraq Chaos: At least 41 dead in string of car bombings | 9



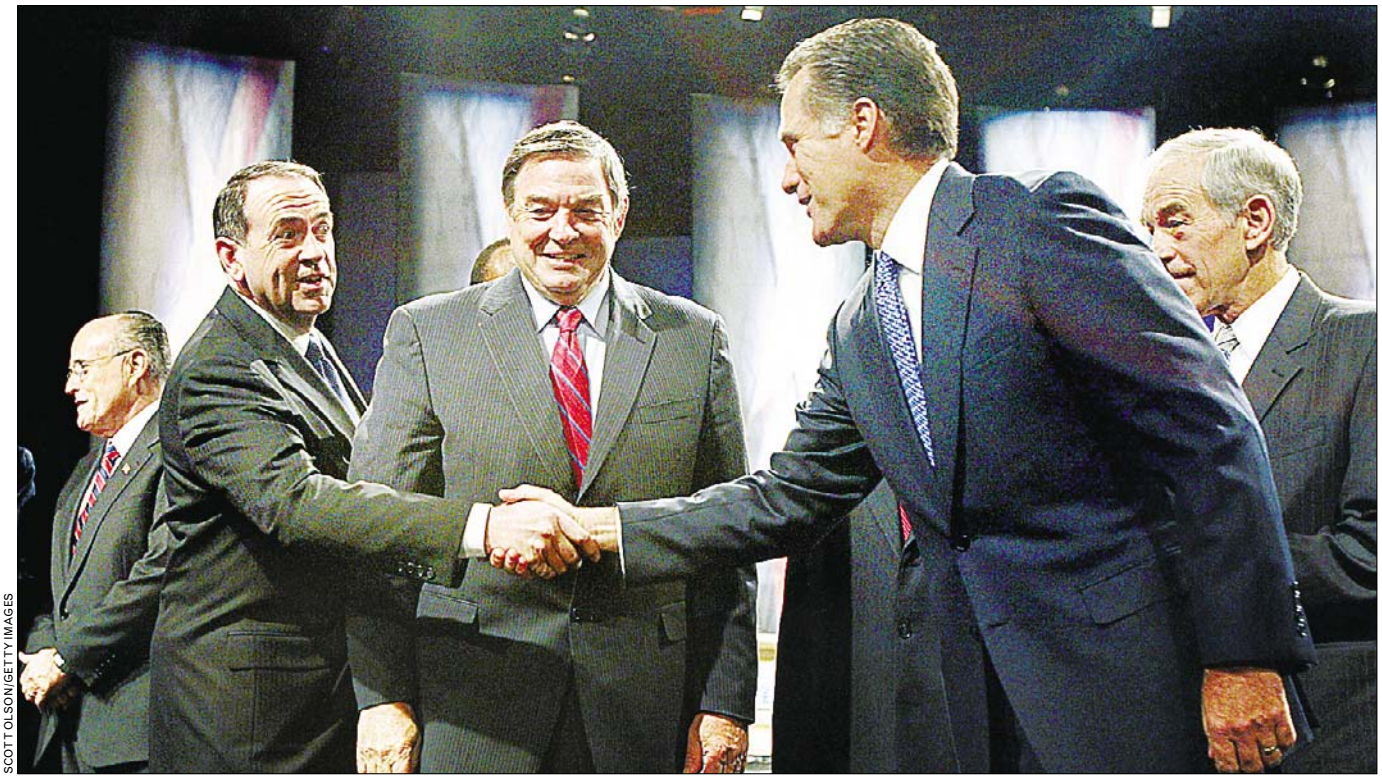
O's Revoir: Orioles trade Tejada to Astros for prospects | 15

WeekendPass

Guitar Heroine: D.C. rocker *Olivia Mancini* juggles bands but keeps her identity.

>> INSIDE

Fierce GOP Rivalries in Check at Iowa Debate


SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

LAST WORDS: Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, second from left, reaches past U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter of California to shake hands with former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney at the Des Moines Register Presidential Debate in Johnston, Iowa, on Wednesday. The nine Republican contenders faced off in a mostly cordial debate, their last meeting before Iowa's Jan. 3 caucuses. ✣ **Common ground:** Rivals unite on need for tax reform | **Page 3**

MVPs Listed in Steroid Probe

Top stars expected among names in report on drugs in MLB

NEW YORK | George Mitchell's report on drugs in baseball will finger MVPs and All-Stars and call for beefed-up testing by an outside agency to clean up the game, The Associated Press learned Wednesday.

The report will not address amphetamines, which long have been recognized as part of the baseball drug culture, two sources with knowledge of the findings told the AP. But it will include names of 60 to 80 players linked to performance-enhancing substances and plenty more information that exposes "deep problems" in a drug culture that plagues the sport, one of the sources said.

The two sources were familiar with discussions that led to the final draft but did not want to be identified because it was confidential until its scheduled release on Thursday. They said the full report, which they had not read, totaled 304 pages plus exhibits.

The report comes at the end of a year when San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds broke the career home run record, only to be indicted on charges of lying to a federal grand jury about steroid use.

The first part of the report, the sources said, will identify players and offer information about clubhouse personnel who allowed steroids and other banned substances in clubhouses or knew about it and didn't say anything. None of the player names had leaked out Wednesday night. (AP)

pollcenter WILL YOU LOSE RESPECT FOR YOUR FAVORITE STARS IF YOU LEARN THEY USED STEROIDS? Ⓐ YES Ⓑ NO

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THURSDAY 42|38 | FRIDAY 49|32 | SATURDAY 40|32

TODAY: A cloudy and much cooler day with a chance of showers | 34

eyeOpeners

WARNING

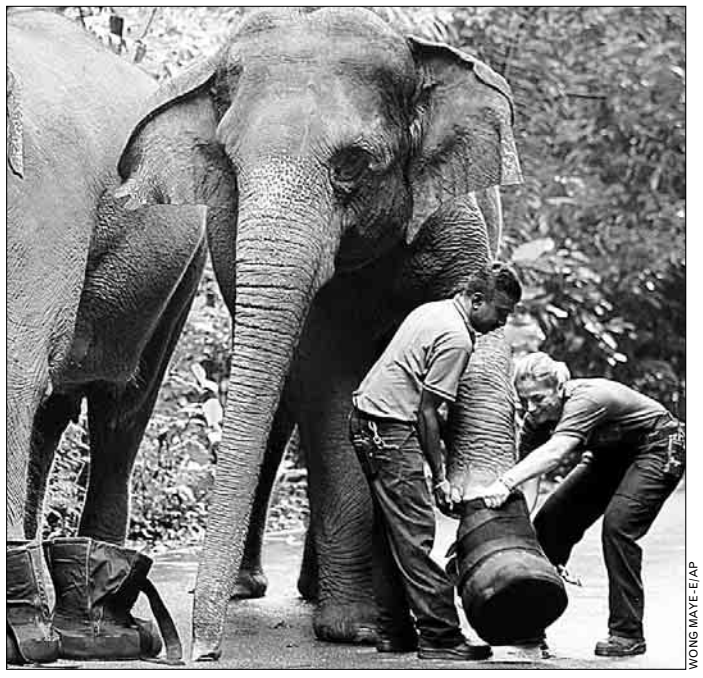
EyeOpeners Is Not To Be Eaten, Smoked

Words to live by, from a warning label on a small tractor: "Danger: Avoid Death." The slogan was selected Wednesday as the winner of the 11th annual "Wacky Warning Label Contest," sponsored by Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch. The contest is part of an effort to show the effects of lawsuits on warning labels. Kevin Soave won the $500 grand prize for submitting the tractor label. The $250 second-place prize went to a label on an iron-on T-shirt transfer, which warned: "Do not iron while wearing shirt." Third place: a label on a baby stroller featuring a small storage pouch that warns: "Do not put child in bag." (AP)

BEVERAGES

'I Can't Take This Antifreeze, Either?!'

A man nearly died from alcohol poisoning after quaffing a liter of vodka at an airport security check instead of handing it over to comply with new carry-on rules. The incident occurred at the Nuremberg, Germany, airport on Tuesday, where the 64-year-old man was switching planes on his way to Dresden from Egypt. New rules prohibit passengers from carrying large quantities of liquid onto planes, and he was told at a security check he would have to either throw out the bottle of vodka or pay a fee to have his carry-on bag checked as cargo. Instead, he chugged the bottle down — and was quickly unable to stand or otherwise function, police said. (AP)



WONG MAYE-E/AP

THE FEETS

The Manolo Says, 'Ayyyyyyyyyyy!'

Two elephants at the Singapore Zoo, Tun and Jamilah, were fitted for custom-made waterproof Gore-Tex booties on Wednesday. The new footwear will aid the healing of lesions on the elephants' soles. (AP)

MEL EVANS/AP

Eyes on the road, not on the pretty tree.

DANGER

Rogue Ornaments Distract 12, Kill None

Someone is decorating trees along the Garden State Parkway. It started before Thanksgiving with two ornaments; more popped up each week after that. "Somebody has a lot of holiday spirit, which is great, but a lot of spare time at night, which is not so great," said Joseph Orlando of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority. There are no notes or any other indications of who is responsible for the roadside ornaments. (AP)

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TOP OF THE HEAP: Negative news coverage may have cost former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales his job, but it won him a dubious honor — lawyer of the year — Wednesday from a magazine published by the American Bar Association.

Nation

In Brief

AP

A utility worker in Oklahoma City struggles to restore power on Wednesday.

OKLAHOMA CITY

Crews Work to Restore Power to Icy Midwest

Lights came back on for some lucky people Wednesday as utility crews struggled to repair power lines snapped by the ice storm that had blacked out as many as a million homes and businesses across the nation's midsection. But repair crews and homeowners still faced a mixture of snow, sleet and light rain that fell across parts of north Texas and central Oklahoma during the morning. (AP)

ERIE, PA.

Woman Gets 5 to 10 Years For Using Baby as Weapon

A woman convicted of swinging her newborn son like a weapon at her boyfriend and fracturing the infant's skull was sentenced Wednesday to five to 10 years in prison. Chytoria Graham was fighting with boyfriend DeAngelo Troop when she grabbed 4-week-old Jarron by his feet and swung him, hitting Troop. The baby has recovered and is living with Graham's family. (AP)

GOP Rivals Urge Cuts in Spending

Republicans control their tempers in final debate before caucuses

JOHNSTON, IOWA | Republican presidential rivals called for deep cuts in federal spending Wednesday in a debate remarkably free of acrimony, and agreed the reductions they seek need not require painful sacrifice by millions of Americans who rely on government services.

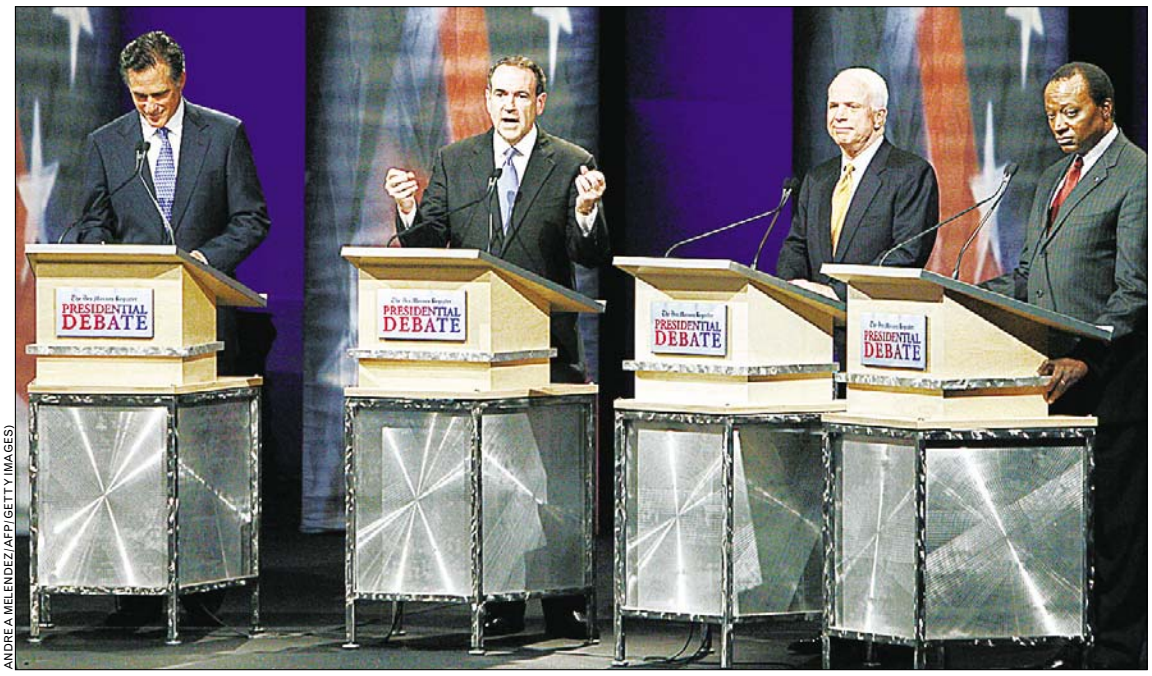
"The sacrifice we need from the American people is saying, 'Let the programs go that don't work. Don't lobby for them forever,'" said former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, one of nine GOP presidential hopefuls sharing an Iowa stage a little more than three weeks before the state's caucuses provide the first test of the campaign.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani called for across-the-board cuts of up to 15 percent, including reduced federal spending on health care. "Rather than relying on a nanny government, let's rely on people to decide their own health care," he said.

The debate was the Republicans' last before the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 3, and it punctuated a remarkable period of turmoil in their race for the presidential nomination.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee has eroded Giuliani's lead in nationwide polls, and he has overtaken Romney in public surveys of likely caucus-goers in Iowa. The result has been an increase in testiness — Romney on Tuesday became the first candidate to assail another in a TV ad, hitting Huckabee for his position on immigration.

But all nine men on the debate stage were on their best behavior for an Iowa electorate notoriously scornful of political attacks, and the subject of education produced the only semblance of sparks. LIZ SIDOTI (AP)



ANDREA MELENDEZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

LAST WORDS: Ex-Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, second from left, speaks during the Republicans' debate in Iowa Wednesday.

Meet the candidate: GOP Sen. John McCain is next in the week-long series of profiles | **Today's Post, A1**

Cholesterol in U.S. Hits Ideal Level

ATLANTA | Americans may be too fat, but at least their cholesterol is low. For the first time in nearly 50 years, the average cholesterol level for U.S. adults is in the ideal range, the government reported Wednesday.

Results from a national survey, which includes blood tests, found the total cholesterol level dropped to 199. Doctors like patients to have total cholesterol readings of 200 or lower.

The growing use of cholesterol-lowering pills in people 60 and older is believed to be a main reason for the improvement, experts said.

"These age groups are the ones most likely to be treated with medication," said Susan Schober of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the lead author of the report.

The survey collects data in two-year intervals. The new results are based on a national sample of about 4,500 people age 20 and older from 2005 to 2006. The new 199 level compares with 204 in 1999 through 2000. (AP)

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Nation

900 **The number of miles** a bunch of balloons traveled from a Utah school to a South Dakota cornfield. The balloons were meant to honor a teacher who died of leukemia.

Face Transplant Is 'Perfect'

Doctors remain wary of surgery despite the success of 1st patient

Two years after French doctors stunned the world with the first partial face transplant, other doctors remain cautious about pursuing the surgery.

The French patient, Isabelle Dinoire, has a new face that resembles and moves like the one she was born with. Her doctors celebrate how far she's come in an article this week in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"She's perfect," said Dr. Jean-Michel Dubernard, the lead surgeon on the operation, in an interview.

Her recovery has been remarkable but difficult.

Dinoire's post-transplant life has been full of complications, including kidney failure and two episodes in which her body's immune system tried to reject the new skin.

MICHEL SPINGLER/AP

Isabelle Dinoire's progress after a face transplant is charted in a new report.

At the two U.S. hospitals planning face transplants, doctors say it's hard to judge how well some treatments used by the French would work on other patients. They also questioned whether Dinoire can be depended upon to keep taking immune-suppressing drugs the rest of her life.

Failure to do so could lead to the face sloughing away. "It could lead to a disaster," said Dr. Bohdan Pomahac, a plastic surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

MIKE STOBBE (AP)

A NEW FACE

The story behind the first-ever face transplant:

- **Six months** after her pet Labrador retriever chewed her face to the point of horrible disfigurement while she was unconscious, Dinoire had the surgery in November 2005. She lost the end of her nose, lips, chin and parts of her cheeks in the attack.
- **The donor** was a brain-dead, woman, 46. Doctors took her face and bone marrow cells, which they injected into Dinoire.

Panel Finds CIA Kept Congress in the Dark

Agency failed to fully inform lawmakers of destruction of tapes

WASHINGTON | The CIA failed to fully inform Congress that it was videotaping the harsh interrogations of terrorist suspects and that it destroyed the tapes in 2005, the bipartisan leaders of the House Intelligence Committee said Wednesday.

"Our committee was not informed, has not been kept informed and we are very frustrated about that issue," said chairman Sylvestre Reyes, D-Texas, after a three-hour closed-door meeting with CIA Director Gen. Michael Hayden.

That probe will include calling other witnesses, including Hayden predecessors George Tenet and Porter Goss, and John Negroponte, the former director of National Intelligence, said Rep. Peter Hoekstra, the panel's senior Republican. Reyes said he would also call on Jose Rodriguez, the former CIA director of operations who actually had the tapes destroyed.

TIM SLOAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

CIA Director Gen. Michael Hayden takes questions after Wednesday's hearing.

Hayden acknowledged that "particularly at the time of the destruction we could have done an awful lot better at keeping the committee alerted and informed."

PAMELA HESS (AP)

Study: Pregnant Women's Balance A Gift of Evolution

WASHINGTON | Scientists think they have figured out why pregnant women don't lose their balance and topple over despite ever-growing weight up front.

Evolution provided them with slight differences from men in their lower backs and hip joints, allowing them to adjust their center of gravity, new research shows.

This elegant engineering is seen only in female humans and our immediate ancestors who walked on two feet, but not in chimps and apes, according to a study published in Thursday's journal Nature.

"That's a big load that's pulling you forward," said Liza Shapiro, an anthropology professor at the University of Texas and the only one of the study's three authors who has actually been pregnant. "You experience discomfort. Maybe it would be a lot worse if [the design changes] were not there." (AP)

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Nation

WHOPPER OF A FIND: The owner of a Burger King franchise says there's no merit to a man's claim that he bit into an unwrapped condom while eating a sandwich he bought there. Franchise owner Carrols Corp. of Syracuse, N.Y., said it "is confident that no Carrols employee placed any foreign object" on Van Miguel Hartless' food.

Rock Pioneer Ike Turner Dead at 76

Musician's career was overshadowed by the abuse of his wife Tina

SAN DIEGO | Ike Turner, whose role as one of rock's critical architects was overshadowed by his ogrelike image as the man who brutally abused former wife and icon Tina Turner, died Wednesday at his home in suburban San Diego. He was 76.

There was no immediate word on the cause of death, which was first reported by celebrity Web site TMZ.com.

Turner managed to rehabilitate his image somewhat in his later years, touring around the globe with his band the Kings of Rhythm and drawing critical acclaim for his work. He won a Grammy in 2007 in the traditional blues album category for "Risin' With the Blues."

AP

Ike and Tina Turner perform in this undated photo. The Turners' volatile marriage overshadowed some of Ike's accomplishments in music. He died on Wednesday.

But his image is forever identified as the drug-addicted, wife-abusing husband of Tina Turner. He was hauntingly portrayed by Laurence Fishburne in the movie "What's Love Got to Do With It," based on Tina Turner's autobiography.

In a 2001 interview with The Associated Press, Turner denied his ex-wife's claims of abuse and expressed frustration that he had been demonized in the media, adding that his historic role in rock's beginnings had been ignored.

"You can go ask Snoop Dogg or Eminem, you can ask the Rolling Stones or [Eric] Clapton, or you can ask anybody — anybody, they all know my contribution to music, but it hasn't been in print about what I've done or what I've contributed until now," he said. ELLIOT SPAGAT (AP)

Bush Vetoes Child Insurance Bill for 2nd Time

WASHINGTON | President Bush vetoed legislation Wednesday that would have expanded government-provided health insurance for children, his second slap-down of a bipartisan effort in Congress to dramatically increase funding for the popular program.

It was Bush's seventh veto in seven years — all but one coming since Democrats took control of Congress in January. Wednesday was the deadline for Bush to act or let the bill become law. The president also vetoed an earlier, similar bill.

In a statement, Bush said the bill was unacceptable because — like the first one — it allows adults into the program, would cover people in families with incomes above the U.S. median and raises taxes. (AP)

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1,500 **The number of gharials** — endangered crocodile-like reptiles — that conservationists believe are left in the wild. At least 21 have died mysteriously in the Chambal River in central India, officials said Wednesday.

World

In Brief

RONALDO SCHEMIDT / AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Thousands of Mexicans walk to honor and celebrate the Virgin of Guadalupe.

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Mexicans Gather to Honor The Country's Patron Saint

Hundreds of thousands of people, some crawling on hands and knees, others carrying her image to be blessed, gathered Wednesday to honor the Mexico's beloved patron saint, the Virgin of Guadalupe. Celebrants set off fireworks, sang and prayed inside the packed Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe to celebrate the 476th anniversary of the dark-skinned virgin's apparition to the Indian Juan Diego. (AP)

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

Bosnian Serb General Convicted of War Crimes

A Bosnian Serb general who ordered the relentless shelling, sniping and indiscriminate terror that rained down on Sarajevo during the final phase of a 44-month siege, was convicted of war crimes Wednesday and given a 33-year prison sentence. Citing testimony from survivors of snipers' bullets and makeshift missiles, the U.N. Yugoslav war crimes tribunal convicted Gen. Dragomir Milosevic, 65, of murder, inhumane acts and waging terror. (AP)

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

2 Emirati Men Sentenced In Kidnapping, Assault Case

Two Emirati men were sentenced Wednesday to 15 years in prison in the highly charged kidnapping and sexual assault of a French-Swiss teenage boy. The mother of the 15-year-old victim said "justice was done," but that she would still appeal to try to gain a life sentence for one of the defendants. (AP)

41 Killed in Triple Bombing in Iraq

Car bomb blasts occur days before Britain is to hand over province

BAGHDAD | Three car bombs exploded in quick succession Wednesday at the main market of a southern Shiite city, killing at least 41 people and wounding 150 others, police and local officials said. It was the deadliest attack against Iraqi civilians in four months.

The blasts in Amarah, an oil-producing city largely spared from sectarian bloodshed, occurred only days before Britain was expected to hand over a neighboring southern province — the last remaining under British control since the 2003 invasion.

Fears are rising about whether Iraq's mostly Shiite security forces can control Shiite militias competing for power in the oil-rich south, even as U.S. officials report dramatic falls in violence nationwide.

American commanders fear that al-Qaeda in Iraq and other extremists might try to exploit the security gap by attempting spectacular attacks against Shiite civilians in less-protected areas outside Baghdad — especially where there is little coalition military presence.

No group claimed responsibility for the Amarah bombings, which appeared to be bomb-rigged cars rather than suicide attacks. The blasts occurred minutes apart and seemed to be timed to bring maximum carnage.

Bystanders rushed to help victims of the first blast, only to suffer death or injury in the explosions that followed, police and witnesses said in Amarah, about 200 miles southeast of Baghdad.

Car bombs are the signature weapon of al-Qaeda and other Sunni extremists, which are seeking new sanctuaries after being driven out of the Baghdad area.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who was visiting nearby Basra, called the Amarah attack a "desperate attempt" to draw attention away from "the clear successes" in the battle to restore stability.

ROBERT H. REID (AP)

AP

Lebanese troops approach burning cars after a bomb exploded outside a municipal building in Baabda, an eastern suburb of Beirut, on Wednesday morning. One of Lebanon's top military generals and the man driving his car were killed in the attack.

Car Bomb Kills Lebanese General

Hajj was likely to be next head of army for the divided nation

BEIRUT, LEBANON | A powerful car bombing Wednesday killed the likely next head of the army in the first such assassination targeting Lebanon's military, seen by many as the only institution keeping the divided nation from breaking apart.

Brig. Gen. Francois Hajj and his driver were killed minutes after he left his home on the way to work. At 7:10 a.m., a parked car packed with 77 pounds of TNT exploded, triggered by remote control, as Hajj's SUV passed by.

The bombing left a crater 6 feet wide and 3 feet deep on a busy street with school buses and morning commuters in Baabda, a mainly Christian suburb of Beirut where the presidential palace is located and where army presence is heavy.

With no claim of responsibility, there was widespread speculation over the motive for the attack, which comes as feuding politicians are struggling to elect a president.

Some anti-Syrian politicians accused Damascus, saying it was trying to torpedo efforts to elect a president.

Others said the attack could be a warning to the military to stay out of politics. SAM F. GHATTAS (AP)

Algeria Reels From Bombings

Death toll from terror attack increases to 31 as rescue efforts continue

ALGIERS, ALGERIA | Rescuers in a shaken city on Wednesday extracted the living and the dead from the crumpled remains of U.N. offices in Algiers that were bombed by an al-Qaeda affiliate. Victims included U.N. staff from around the world, police officers and law students.

The Interior Ministry said 31 people were killed in Tuesday's twin truck bombings, as the official death toll slowly mounted.

Rescue work focused on five or six people who were in the basement of the U.N. building at the time of the attack and who could still be alive, said the chief of the emergency team, Djamal Khoudi.

The attacks drew international condemnation. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged all nations on Wednesday to stand united against terrorism. (AP)

A Reinvented al-Qaeda

➜ Tuesday's bombings are the latest sign that al-Qaeda is becoming more sophisticated. | A Section

IN The Washington Post

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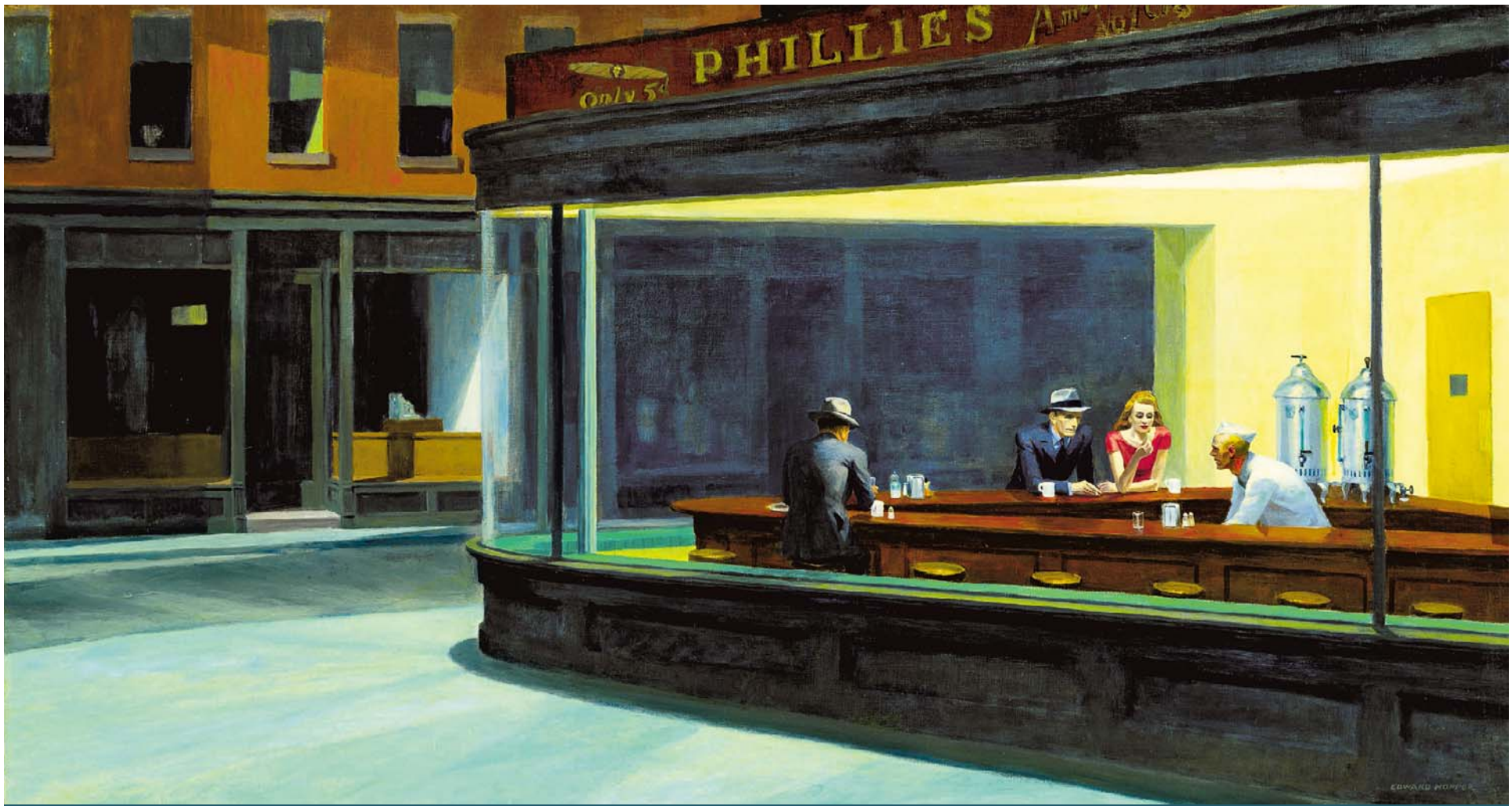

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Edward Hopper, *Nighthawks* (detail), 1942, oil on canvas, The Art Institute of Chicago, Friends of American Art Collection. Photograph ©The Art Institute of Chicago

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"If [former Taliban fighters] are prepared to renounce violence ... and respect basic human rights, then there is a place for them in the legitimate society ... of Afghanistan."

—**Gordon Brown**, British prime minister, in comments to the House of Commons on Wednesday.

World

More Than 50 Taliban Killed In Afghan Town

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN | More than 50 Taliban fighters who fled a key southern Afghan town were killed in a two-day battle as the militants tried to attack a nearffffby government center, the Defense Ministry said Wednesday.

In the east, two NATO soldiers were killed and three were wounded when a bomb struck their convoy, the alliance said. NATO did not disclose the nationalities of the victims or give the exact location of the blast. Most of the NATO troops in the east are American.

The southern battle — fought by Afghan soldiers aided by NATO airstrikes — took place in Sangin. Among the 50 militants killed were three foreigners and three commanders, the ministry said. (AP)

Peace Talks Begin Amid Violence

'Not an inch' of progress is made between Israeli and Palestinian officials

JERUSALEM | A Palestinian rocket barrage, an Israeli army incursion in Gaza and a fresh land dispute in Jerusalem marred the first Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in seven years Wednesday. The two sides traded accusations — and wrapped up a 90-minute session without any achievements.

An Israeli official described the atmosphere as "tense," and a Palestinian official reported "not an inch" of progress had been made.

It was the first formal negotiating session since Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas relaunched peace talks at last month's Mideast conference in Annapolis, Md.

ALEX KOLOMOISKY/AP

A member of Temple Mount Faithful, a group that advocates rebuilding the third Jewish temple, walks in a parade in Jerusalem as peace talks began Wednesday.

At the heart of Wednesday's tension was an Israeli announcement last week that it would build 307 new homes in the Har Homa neighborhood of Jerusalem, in an area the Palestinians claim as their future capital. Also tarnishing the talks was fresh violence between Israel and militants in Gaza, where the Islamic Hamas seized power six months ago.

On Wednesday, Palestinian militants fired more than 20 homemade rockets into Israel, causing damage to structures and wounding one woman. Hours earlier, Israeli forces ended an incursion into the strip that killed six militants.

Despite the rocky start, the two sides agreed to continue talks in the coming weeks. STEVEN GUTKIN (AP)

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World

ROOM AT THE INN: Travelodge hotels are offering couples named Joseph and Mary free rooms in Europe for Christmas, Agence France Presse reported Tuesday.

Negotiations Stall in Bali

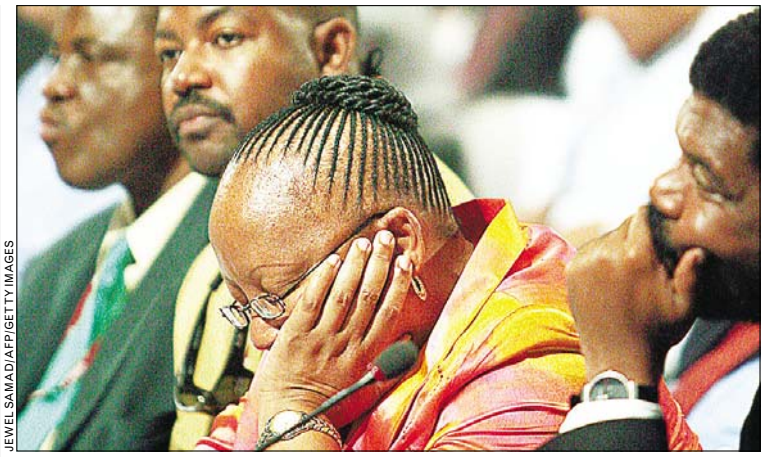
United States rejects 'ambitious' guidelines for emissions cuts

BALI, INDONESIA | As the U.N. climate conference entered its last days, the United States encountered — and rejected — fresh demands Wednesday that it accept ambitious guidelines for negotiating future cuts in emissions of global warming gases.

Pressure came even from a one-time ally on climate change, Australia, whose new prime minister urged Washington to "embrace" new binding targets.

But U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, after opening the ministerial-level final segment of the two-week meeting, told reporters he believed suggesting specific emissions guidelines in the "Bali roadmap" for future talks may prove "too ambitious."

The tenor of the talks pointed, instead, toward a least-common-denominator outcome by week's end: a vague plan to negotiate by 2009 a new deal on emissions cuts, replacing the Kyoto Protocol when it expires in 2012. CHARLES J. HANLEY (AP)



JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Delegates take part in the U.N. climate conference in Bali on Wednesday. Since the conference began last week, the U.S. has refused new emissions guidelines.

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31 | **The national rank** of Virginia unionized teacher pay rates, according to the National Education Association's annual review. The NEA puts the average Virginia teacher salary at $44,727, about $6,000 less than the national average.

Local

In Brief

BALTIMORE, MD.

'Stop Snitching' Cameraman Indicted on Gun Charges

A man identified by police as the cameraman for the infamous street video "Stop Snitching" has been indicted on federal gun and drug charges. Akiba Matthews, 35, faces the possibility of life in prison if he's convicted of possessing a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking. The "Stop Snitching" DVD threatened retaliation against those who cooperate with police and highlighted the culture of witness intimidation in Baltimore. In addition to shooting much of the footage, Matthews appears on-camera. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Senator: Smithsonian Maintenance Is Paramount

Congress should stop adding new museums to the Smithsonian Institution's portfolio until the complex's multibillion-dollar maintenance backlog is properly funded, the chairman of the committee that oversees the museum complex said Wednesday. The Smithsonian has a maintenance backlog estimated at $2.5 billion. At the same time, the Smithsonian is planning to open a new museum — the National Museum of African American History and Culture — in or around 2015. The museum was mandated by Congress, and the cost is to be covered by a mix of private and public funding. (AP)

SILVER SPRING, MD.

Catholic Deacon Charged With 10 Counts of Incest

Police have charged a Roman Catholic deacon with incest for allegedly abusing an underage female relative in the 1960s and 1970s. Dan Paul Stallings has served as deacon at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Silver Spring since 1986. Police say the 71-year-old was arrested Tuesday and charged with 10 counts of incest. Police say the abuse took place outside the church. But investigators say they are concerned that Stallings may have abused other children because of his involvement with a Catholic youth organization. (AP)

Kaine Proposes Care for Uninsured

State-subsidized plan expands health care to those over poverty line

RICHMOND, VA. | Gov. Timothy M. Kaine proposed a state-subsidized program Wednesday to expand health care to thousands of uninsured Virginians over the poverty line.

In the two-year budget he proposed Monday, Kaine said he will include $10 million for clinics that care for the needy and uninsured, $7.7 million to pay a share of premium costs for the working uninsured and about $7.5 million for prenatal care for an additional 400 women.

The Democratic governor's $25.5 million health care initiative targets working families that earn up to twice the federal poverty level — about $41,000 for a family of four — and are ineligible for Medicaid.

Kaine

It puts a priority on care for women.

Besides the money for care for pregnant women, Kaine's proposal includes money for free breast and cervical cancer screenings for more than 1,000 women from 18 to 44 years old.

The health insurance subsidy proposal would provide up to $75 per month for each participant as the state's one-third share of insurance coverage.

The participant would cover one-third on his own, and his employer would cover one-third.

BOB LEWIS (AP)

WASHINGTON | GRANDMOTHER RECEIVES HELPFUL HOLIDAY GIFT

MARVIN JOSEPH/TWP

WARMER WINTER: Venezuelan Ambassador Bernado Alvarez, left, and Citizens Energy Chairman Joseph P. Kennedy II attend the delivery of reduced-price CITGO-Venezuela heating oil Wednesday to the home of Safronia Holland, 67, center, of Southeast. The grandmother of nine was struggling to afford rising energy costs. The program runs through March.

D.C. to Buy Guns, Give Amnesty

WASHINGTON | D.C. police will try to reduce violence in the city by buying guns off the street this weekend through an amnesty program.

Police Chief Cathy Lanier says the gun amnesty program will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. People who turn in weapons will be granted amnesty from any gun possession charges.

Guns will be accepted at three locations: Shiloh Baptist Church in Northwest, Holy Christian House of Praise in Northeast and Union Temple Baptist Church in Southeast.

The pay scale for guns will range from $10 for a pellet gun to $100 for an assault rifle or semiautomatic pistol. (AP)

Roger Taney Bust Dispute Settled

FREDERICK, MD. | A sculpture of Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, who wrote the Dred Scott decision affirming slavery, would remain in front of Frederick City Hall under a compromise backed by the local NAACP and the mayor.

A new plaque would describe the Maryland native's career and the landmark 1857 ruling that some historians consider a catalyst for the Civil War.

The wording of the plaque hasn't been decided, but Guy Djoken, president of the Frederick County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said it will be thorough.

"People will understand the full extent of the role he played in slavery," Djoken said. "People will come and see the bust and decide on it."

Djoken was among a number of local civil rights leaders who urged the city in July to consider removing the statue from the City Hall plaza, where it has stood for 75 years. (AP)

The Lotteries

Wednesday, Dec. 12

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	3-6-4
Evening Lucky Numbers (Tues.)	4-9-7
Mid-day DC 4	4-5-7-9
Evening DC 4 (Tues.)	1-7-7-2
Rolling Cash Five (Tues.)	6-15-22-24-28
Daily 6 (Tues.)	19-20-25-28-29-38 Bonus: 11

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Mega Millions (Tues.)	6-25-27-30-45
Mega Ball	46

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	0-4-9
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	3-7-2
Mid-day Pick 4	7-1-5-1
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	9-3-8-9
Match 5 (Tues.)	7-8-12-24-38 Bonus: 14

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Wed.)	4-9-4
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	5-6-4
Mid-day Pick 4 (Wed.)	0-1-8-9
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	5-5-1-6
Mid-day Cash 5 (Wed.)	6-13-27-29-32
Evening Cash 5 (Tues.)	13-22-25-27-28

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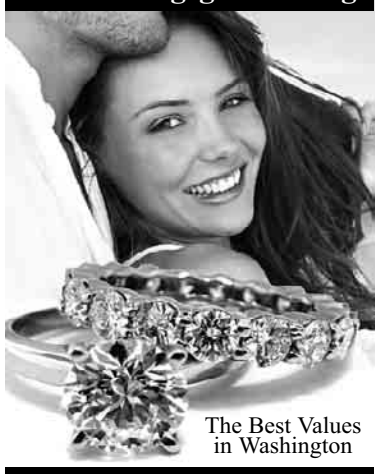

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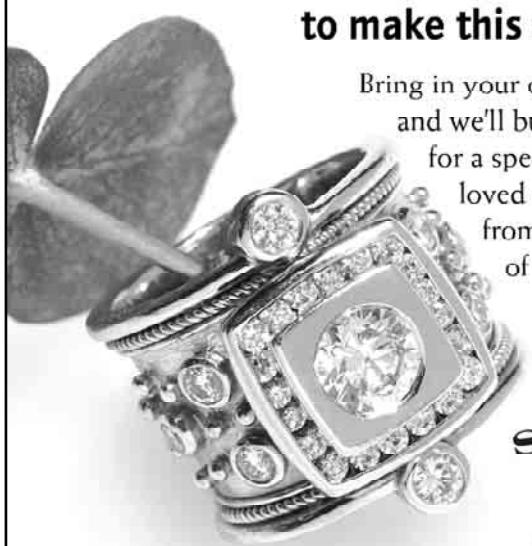

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Money

Fed Fights Credit Crunch

Auctions will allow banks to bid for up to $40 billion in loans

WASHINGTON | The Federal Reserve on Wednesday announced a novel approach to injecting money into the banking system as it struggles to combat a severe credit crunch that threatens to drag the country into a recession.

The Fed said it would conduct two auctions next week in which banks can bid for up to $40 billion in loans, money that they will have to bolster their own reserves.

It marked the Fed's biggest concentrated effort to inject liquidity into the banking system since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The hope is that the extra funds will spur increased lending on the part of the banks and combat a serious credit crunch that has made loans harder to obtain for many businesses and consumers.

AP

After traders reacted timidly to the Fed's rate cut Tuesday, stocks rose Wednesday.

The announcement initially lifted spirits on Wall Street, with the Dow Jones industrial average up as much as 272 points in early trading.

However, stocks could not hold on to most of those gains as investors began to worry that the Fed's new auction plan wouldn't be enough to deal with the worsening credit crunch. The Dow finished the day up only 41.13 points at 13,473.90.

That performance followed a huge 294-point drop in the Dow on Tuesday as investors expressed disappointment at what they viewed as a timid interest rate cut by the Fed. MARTIN CRUTSINGER (AP)

Judge: Calif. Can Regulate Emissions

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. | Handing a major defeat to the auto industry, a federal judge ruled Wednesday that California can regulate greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles.

The ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Anthony Ishii in Fresno clears one of the hurdles in California's effort to regulate tailpipe emissions from cars, trucks and sports utility vehicles.

Automakers sued the state over the tailpipe standards it approved in 2004, which would force automakers to build cars and light trucks that produce about 30 percent fewer greenhouse gases by 2016. However, the state still needs a waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency to implement the program. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Tefron	4.65	+1.15	+32.9
MidwGm	3.95	+.82	+26.2
MaguirePr	28.20	+2.94	+11.6
Primedia rs	8.38	+.83	+11.0
Manitow s	47.86	+4.31	+9.9

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
CSK Auto	6.12	-3.07	-33.4
SecCapAs	5.45	-1.52	-21.8
NtwkEq	10.69	-2.35	-18.0
FeldmnM lf	3.02	-.62	-17.0
US Airwy	15.31	-2.28	-13.0

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Netmanag	6.70	+3.01	+81.6
Nextest	19.54	+7.55	+63.0
Ampex	7.26	+1.90	+35.4
CCF Hold	13.75	+2.99	+27.8
Iomai	1.20	-.04	-3.2

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
AmDental	14.34	-5.36	-27.2
ForcePro n	4.99	-1.83	-26.8
Esmark n	12.00	-3.52	-22.7
1stIndepFn	9.42	-2.57	-21.4
IndepFedl	6.66	-1.29	-16.2

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	7.25	7.50
Fed Funds close	4.25	4.38
3-month disc	2.80	2.99
2-year	3.09	2.86
10-year	4.07	3.91
30-year	4.52	4.38

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.4885	.4913	.5076
Canadian Dollar	1.0131	1.0130	1.1523
European Euro	.6793	.6814	.7532
Japanese Yen	112.13	110.82	116.90
Mexican Peso	10.8249	10.8401	10.8450
Taiwanese Dollar	32.36	32.37	32.50

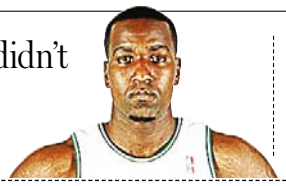
DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
+41.13	+18.79	+8.94
+0.31	+0.71	+0.60
13473.90	2671.14	1486.59

Bank Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
BcoSantand	21.87	+.32	+17.2
BkofAm	43.43	-1.22	-18.7
BkMont g	59.45	+.62	+.4
BkNova g	51.66	+.24	+15.3
CIBC g	78.70	-.47	-6.6
Citigrp	31.47	-1.76	-43.5
DeutschBk	133.28	+3.53	...
JPMorgCh	46.15	+.21	-3.8
MitsuUFJ	10.82	+.22	-13.1
RoyalBk g	51.52	+.05	+8.1
TorDBk g	71.62	+.14	+21.4
UBS AG	49.26	+.48	-18.3
US Bancrp	33.20	+.35	-8.3
Wachovia	40.53	-1.42	-28.8
WellsFargo	30.67	-.10	-13.8

"Man, that's a weird story. I guess whoever put my bed together didn't put it together right when I moved, so one side of my bed fell."

— **Celtics F Kendrick Perkins** explains that he injured his toe when his bed fell on his foot.



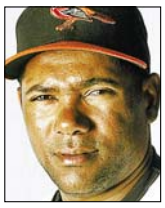
Sports

O's Trade Tejada to Houston

Astros send 5 players to Baltimore in deal for 31-year-old SS

ORIOLES | Miguel Tejada got his wish — albeit a couple of years later than he wanted.

Tejada, 31, was traded from the Baltimore Orioles to the Houston Astros for five players on Wednesday, giving the former AL MVP a fresh start on a team looking to boost its lineup.



Tejada

The Orioles got outfielder Luke Scott, pitchers Matt Albers, Troy Patton and Dennis Sarfate, and third baseman Michael Costanzo for the four-time All-Star shortstop. Scott is perceived to be an upgrade from Jay Payton in left field, and 24-year-old Albers pitched in 31 games for the Astros this season. Pitchers Patton and Sarfate have little experience but unlimited potential, and Costanzo has the distinction of being rated the sixth-best prospect in the Houston organization by Baseball America.

Two winters ago, Tejada caused a stir in Baltimore when he said was unhappy with the Orioles' direction and wanted to be traded. He later backed off that stance.

"I feel very happy with this trade, because it's something that I've been really looking forward to," Tejada told The Associated Press by telephone from Miami. (AP)

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

WIZARDS (8:15 P.M. ON TNT) The Heat has struggled to start the season. But the Wizards always have trouble in Miami.

NBA (10:30 P.M. ON TNT) Kobe and the Lakers host the Tim Duncan-less Spurs.

NFL (8 P.M. ON NFL NETWORK) Denver (yawn) heads to Houston (yawn) for a Thursday-night (yawn) game.

PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

AN IDIOSYNCRATIC INDIVIDUAL: Quarterback Todd Collins admits he likes to smell footballs. "I like to sometimes smell the football before I get going," Collins says, somewhat begrudgingly. "Just love the game, you know. You've got to love the football."

Quirky QB in the Spotlight

10 years after his last start, all the attention shifts to Todd Collins

REDSKINS | Weird. Quirky. Silly. Dry sense of humor. Master of random knowledge. A rare personality. Likes to smell stuff, especially footballs.

Those are actual descriptions given by various Washington Redskins teammates over the last few days of their new starting quarterback, Todd Collins.

"He has a great sense of humor. It's dry, but it's so funny," receiver Antwaan Randle El said.

Example, please.

"We'll have a sign that says '8:30 meeting,'" Randle El said. "He says, 'What time's that 8:30 meeting?'"

Right. And you trust this guy to be your quarterback?

Randle El shrugged.

"That's no different than Jason coming in and giving us gibberish," said Randle El, taking a friendly swipe at injured QB Jason Campbell's Mississippi accent.

Regardless, Collins this week is worthy of at least one more adjective: patient. Extremely patient.

On Sunday, the 36-year-old quarterback will set an NFL record for longest gap between starts since the 1970 merger. It will have been 10 years and two days since he started for the Buffalo Bills on Dec. 14, 1997. He'll surpass the record of 9 years, 298 days, between Tommy Maddox's starts in 1992 with Denver and 2002 with Pittsburgh.

"It's been a while since I've had this much attention," said Collins, surveying the horde of cameras, microphones and notepads before Wednesday's practice. "But it's not bad."

Naturally, everyone suddenly wanted to know everything about the person assuming the position some cite as No. 2 in importance — behind only the president — in the nation's capital.

Does he really sniff the balls?

"I like to sometimes smell the football before I get going," Collins said, somewhat begrudgingly. "Just love the game, you know. You've got to love the football."

After he led the Redskins on four scoring drive to beat the Bears on Thursday night, Collins had no idea where to go for the postgame news conference; it had been years since he had to give one. When Collins started talking on the phone with wife Andrea, who is due to give birth any day, Gibbs grabbed the phone and said to Andrea: "Hey, this guy saved our hide!"

Now he has to do it again — and again and again — if the Redskins are to make the playoffs.

JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

Giant misstep? All season long, it has looked like the Giants were going to collapse. But here they are at 9-4, still winning football games. | **Today's Post, Sports**

Spy Games Go Back to Last Season

Jets videotaped Pats last season; Mangini says team gave the OK

NFL | The spy games between the New York Jets and New England Patriots began last season.

The Jets were caught videotaping at Gillette Stadium last season and the Patriots had that New York employee removed from the area, according to published reports Wednesday. Jets coach Eric Mangini said his team received permission to film behind both end zones during the playoff game in January.

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

Eric Mangini said he was given permission to tape the Patriots game last year.

"We taped the game, is what we taped, and we taped end-zone copy of the game, and we tape a double end zone, which is standard operating procedure for us," Mangini said Wednesday. "We request that every single road game, and it's usually granted if physically it's possible. And when people request it from us, we do the same thing: We grant it."

Mangini maintained the Jets did nothing wrong, and had filmed at New England during the regular season without incident. It was nothing like what the Patriots did earlier this season, when a New England employee was caught taping New York's defensive signals and punished by the league.

"We do it every time we go on the road," Mangini repeated. "We ask for permission to do it. It's within the league rules, and when people ask us to do it, we grant it, as well."

Mangini was also asked if the Jets were, at all, taping the Patriots' defensive signals.

"No," Mangini said smugly.

The Jets have not asked the undefeated Patriots if they can film from the end zones this Sunday at Foxborough.

"Just didn't look to get permission," he said. "Didn't think it would be granted." DENNIS WASZAK JR. (AP)

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Sports

NICK WASS/AP

Wizards forward Caron Butler is averaging a career-best 22.4 points per game.

Wizards' Big Two Are Now in Charge

With Gil out, Jamison is team leader and Butler leading scorer

WIZARDS | Never underestimate the complementary superstar.

With so many NBA games decided in the final two minutes, it's easy to gawk at the impact of a single high-scorer with a penchant for hitting big shots.

But when Wizards marketing icon Gilbert Arenas re-aggravated a knee injury 13 games into the regular season, his teammates did not panic.

"I think the most important thing was how well the team was going to react to it, especially what happened to us the last week or two of [last] season," Antawn Jamison said, referring to Arenas' original injury and the Wizards' four straight playoff losses to Cleveland that followed.

The Wizards' remaining stars — Jamison and Caron Butler — are showing that teamwork in the new NBA is just as important as big-time scorers.

"We wanted leadership, and they've given that. That means a lot," coach Eddie Jordan said. "Caron and Antawn are awesome leaders. They do it in a quiet way. ... They're serious about their approach to the game. They help their teammates, but they find a way to score."

Arenas is the flamboyant one of the three. His offbeat antics and knack for posting 40-point performances have made him the face of the team on a league-wide scale.

Butler has picked up some of that slack, posting 27 points or more in seven games in the last month. His three-point shooting (46 percent) and overall field goal percentage (52 percent) have been huge, considering his increased role in the offense.

Meanwhile, Jamison has weathered a tough shooting year so far (42 percent from the floor) to average 21.4 points and a career-best 10.5 rebounds per contest. He emphasized that Arenas' absence makes the team play a more focused game. The Wizards (11-10) play at Miami (6-15) on Thursday night.

"You have to [play the system better offensively]," Jamison said. "You have to take quality shots; you have to be patient."

And they have been. As of midweek, Washington (11-10) had the fifth-best record in the Eastern Conference, more than holding serve until their best player returns, which won't be until sometime in 2008. ERIC BRANDNER

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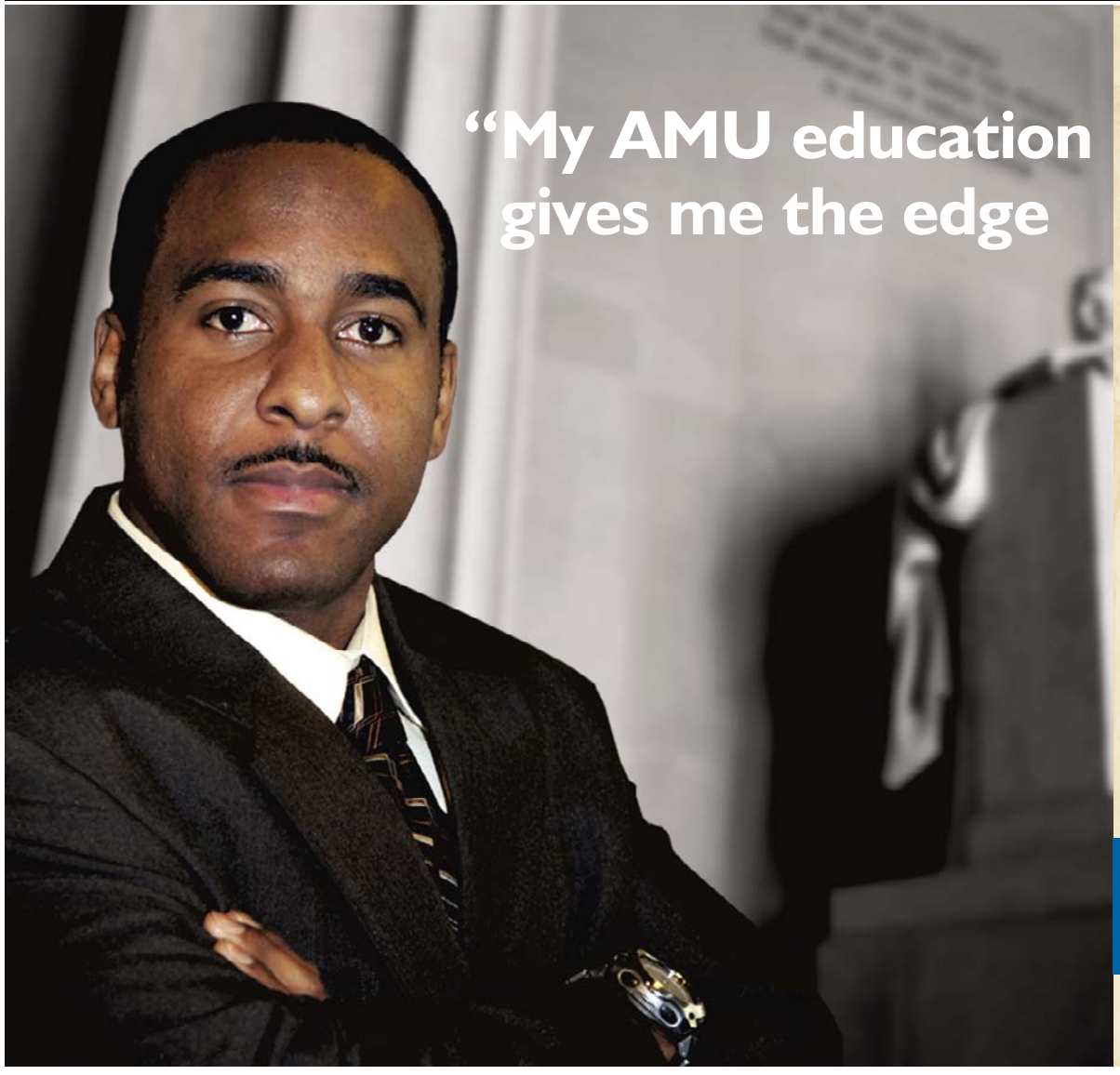

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60 | **The amount, in millions of dollars,** outfielder Aaron Rowand will make in his five-year contract with the Giants. Rowand, who was an All-Star last year, agreed to the deal Wednesday.

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D.C. United Deals Boswell

Houston sends backup keeper and a draft pick to D.C. for young star

UNITED | D.C. United dealt 2006 MLS defender of the year, resident blogger and man-about-town Bobby Boswell to Houston on Wednesday in exchange for the champ's backup goalkeeper and a conditional 2009 draft pick — a trade that may be the first of several significant roster moves engineered by a club reeling from three consecutive playoff disappointments.

The trade was prompted by two unrelated developments — the impending departure of United goalkeeper Troy Perkins and Boswell's own request, United general manager Dave Kasper said.

Although a favorite among fans and a rising star in American soccer circles, Boswell, 24, struggled somewhat this year and lost his permanent place in coach Tom Soehn's starting 11 over the summer. The addition of veteran Greg Vanney and the emergence of former Terrapin Marc Burch and Winchester, Va., native Devon McTavish left Boswell feeling squeezed, to the point where he asked for a move.

BILL KOSTROUN/AP

D.C. United defender Bobby Boswell, 24, was a fan favorite and rising MLS star.

"He was just looking for a change. He's been here for three years, and, obviously, this year he lost his starting job. He just felt he needed a change professionally to get himself back to where he needed to be," Kasper said.

Boswell turned down a contract extension following his award-winning 2006 season and has said repeatedly that he enjoys new challenges and longs to play in Europe.

"Bobby came to training every day prepared to give everything he had," Kasper said. "But we saw the writing on the wall, that he wanted to make a move."

Meanwhile, Perkins is on the verge of getting his chance to play overseas. Kasper said the club has "agreed in principal" to sell the goalie to a Scandinavian club, rumored to be Valerenga from Oslo.

Houston will send goalkeeper Zach Wells to United in exchange for Boswell. Wells, 26, started three games for the Dynamo last season and has one U.S. national team game to his credit.

As for bigger deals ahead, Kasper would not comment on United's pursuit of Argentine veteran Juan Sebastian Veron and said only that negotiations with playmaker Christian Gomez are "ongoing." BRIAN STRAUS

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Sports

Cubs Snag Japanese Outfielder Fukudome

Veteran OKs 4-year, $48 million contract to play RF in Chicago

BASEBALL | Japanese outfielder Kosuke Fukudome and the Chicago Cubs reached a preliminary agreement on a $48 million, four-year contract.

The deal is subject to a physical that is expected to take place next week, the Cubs said Wednesday.

Fukudome was considered one of the best outfielders in Japanese baseball. The 30-year-old slugger was a key member of the Japan team that won the inaugural World Baseball Classic in March 2006.

He had surgery on his right elbow in August and sat out the Japan Series, but has 192 homers and a .305 batting average over nine seasons with the Chunichi Dragons, who won their first championship in 53 years on Nov. 2. General manager Jim Hendry said there is no concern about Fukudome's elbow and that he should be able to go from the first day of spring training.

After becoming a free agent, Fukudome drew interest from the Cubs, Padres and White Sox.

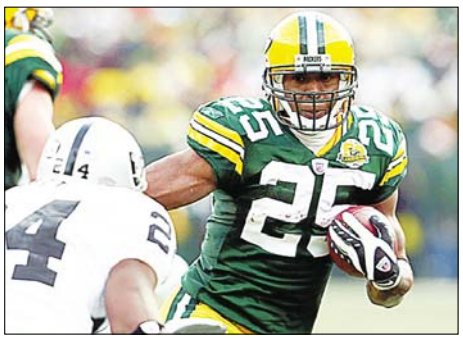
Fukudome

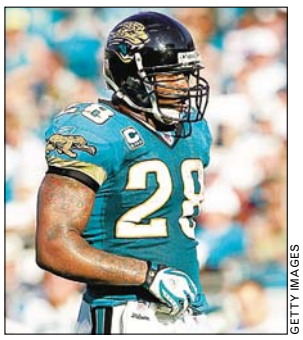
He will play right field for the Cubs, who traded outfielder Jacque Jones to Detroit this offseason and declined their contract option on Cliff Floyd.

Hendry said Fukudome has been the Cubs' main target since the offseason began.

"This was option 1-2-3 as far as we were concerned," Hendry said. "We couldn't be happier." (AP)

DREAM TEAM ►► FANTASY'S UPS AND DOWNS


RYAN GRANT


FRED TAYLOR

GETTY IMAGES

Best Bets: Maybe the worst news for Redskins fans hoping for the playoffs is the emergence of Vikings QB **TARVARIS JACKSON**, who has thrown four TDs and one interception in the past three games. He faces a Bears defense that made Todd Collins look like fellow Michigan alum Tom Brady. Adrian Peterson is the breakout player of the year, but running a close second is Packers RB **RYAN GRANT**, who has at least 88 yards in each of the past four games while scoring four times.

Not a Chance: **ALGE CRUMPLER** is the face of the Falcons' offense, so he's the fall guy in our prediction to pass on the entire team that lost a game and coach in less than 24 hours. It doesn't help that Atlanta faces Tampa Bay and its No. 2-ranked defense. No disrespect intended to Jaguars great RB **FRED TAYLOR**, but you should be looking elsewhere as the fantasy season playoffs start. Testing the Steelers' rush defense is just asking for trouble. MATT SWENSON (EXPRESS)

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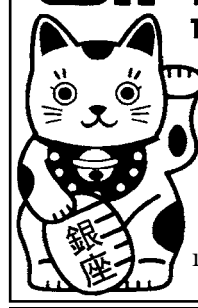

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COOL? CREEPY? A lock of John Lennon's hair sold for $48,000 Wednesday in an auction of Beatles memorabilia collected by the band's hairdresser. The hair was inside an autographed copy of Lennon's book "A Spaniard in the Works."

Entertainment

Get Schooled on Rock

Slash, Clapton, Sixx: They wrote the book on rock. Literally.

AUTHORS | For those rock 'n' roll fans on your gift list this holiday season, there are plenty of new offerings to keep their heads bopping along happily into the new year.

There are fresh sounds from Eric Clapton, Sting, Genesis, Ronnie Wood of the Rolling Stones, Velvet Revolver guitarist Slash and Motley Crue bassist Nikki Sixx.

There's just one twist: None is a CD rack.

All are on bookshelves — part of an unusual flurry of autobiographies out this winter by aging rockers with some hair-raising stories.

Clapton's self-titled autobiography is already a hit, having sold 525,000 copies. Joining him on best-seller lists is "Slash," "Ronnie" and Sixx's "The Heroin Diaries."

Why would rockers — those near-mythical gods of sex, drugs and general excess — turn to that most stodgy of storytelling modes, the written word?

"I think there are a couple of motivations: One, they've lived their lives and it's time to look back on them — the lived life is worth examining," says Broadway Books Executive Editor Charlie Conrad, who worked on Clapton's book.

"And also, from the standpoint of the public, rock figures are out there on the cutting edge — the knife edge. They live life to its extreme. And if they survived, they have a good story to tell."

AP

GREAT BOOKS: Slash is one of many rock stars who put it all down on paper this year.

Those stories include tales of love, loss and friendship, but also nasty bouts with venereal diseases, scary strippers and mountains of controlled substances.

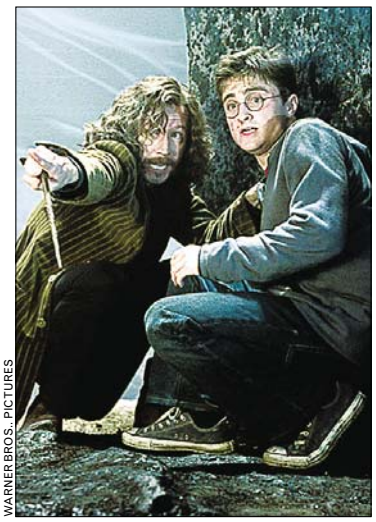
The original lineup of Genesis — including Peter Gabriel — collaborated for the first time in more than 20 years for "Genesis: Chapter and Verse," which offers a polite first-person account and photos.

Sixx's diary is a tad darker — an unvarnished look at his life on the road in 1987, when he struggled with addictions and depression. There's the time he woke up during an earthquake and ran outside, naked and clutching a crack pipe. In another entry, he writes: "This morning I woke up with my shotgun in bed with me."

Not to be outdone, Slash, a founding member of Guns N' Roses who makes several wicked cameos in Sixx's book, has his own accounts of debauchery, delivered in a straightforward, often amusing way.

He tells of one night being kicked out of a Canadian hotel, drunk and soaked in his own urine. But to his surprise, he's not as frozen as he feared: "That's a wonderful side effect of leather pants: when you pee yourself in them, they're more forgiving than jeans," he writes.

MARK KENNEDY (AP)



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Gary Oldman and Daniel Radcliffe cower in "The Order of the Phoenix."

Deepest, Darkest 'Potter'

'Order of the Phoenix' on DVD is delightfully sinister, charming

DVD | "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" (Warner, $35) is the fifth film and one of the darkest entries in the "Potter" saga, allowing Daniel Radcliffe to really shine as Harry. In this outing, no one will believe Harry, Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint) that Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) has returned, especially the Ministry of Magic. To keep Harry and his friends quiet at Hogwarts, the Ministry appoints one of its own, the vicious Dolores Umbridge (the wonderful Imelda Staunton) as the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher.

Extras on the DVD include deleted scenes, a documentary, "The Hidden Secrets of Harry Potter," and a tour of the set with actress Natalia Tena, who plays Tonks.

Coincidentally, Radcliffe also stars in the recently released drama "December Boys" (Warner, $28), in which he plays the oldest of a group of orphans who discover that a young couple may want to adopt one of them. SUSAN KING (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Hearts Gently Weep for ODB

After losing a Clan member, Wu-Tang makes it melacholy

MUSIC | When the Wu-Tang Clan fires on all cylinders, it simply operates on a different level than everyone else in hip-hop.

It's on display throughout "The 8 Diagrams" (Loud/SRC) — the hip-hop conglomerate's first album since 2001's "Iron Flag," as well as its first since the death of Ol' Dirty Bastard in 2004 — in the moments when RZA's dense, meticulously crafted beats get surrounded by the dark rhymes of the rest of the Clan.

The centerpiece is the epic "The Heart Gently Weeps," based on a sample from George Harrison's "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," which is augmented by guitar work from Harrison's son, Dhani, and Red Hot Chili Pepper John Frusciante. Over the fuzzy-dream riffs and between pretty, female-driven hooks sung by Erykah Badu, Raekwon and Ghostface take turns telling a terrible tale of how staying in on a snowy night to watch "Raisin in the Sun" devolves into a murderous rampage. It drives home the theme of darkness a feeling echoed in "Life Changes," a touching tribute to Ol' Dirty Bastard.

SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS RECORDINGS

On the dark "8 Diagrams," Clan members blend their skills for hip-hop gold.

Even the upbeat George Clinton somehow sounds menacing in the dark surroundings." Only on "Starter" does the Clan show off any rhymes that are even remotely playful.

GLENN GAMBOA (NEWSDAY)

Entertainment

NATIONAL TREASURE: Sotheby's auction house reported that Orson Welles' personal working script of "Citizen Kane" sold for almost $100,000 Tuesday, but his Oscar for the 1941 film was withdrawn after bidding failed to rise above the seller's minimum.

Hot Chip in No Man's Land

A U.K. band navigates the space between electronica and pop

STAGE PRESENCE | The five members of U.K. electro-pop outfit Hot Chip have become successful in two very different ways.

On one hand, they're sought-after remixers, twisting tracks by such pop stars as Amy Winehouse, Gorillaz and Queens of the Stone Age into extended club hits. But they've also garnered a reputation for their stellar live show, which incorporates the best elements of dance music while retaining the feel of a live band.

These attributes, and an endearingly nerdy persona in the vein of Devo and Kraftwerk, have helped Hot Chip break out internationally with tracks like "Over and Over" and "Boy From School" from last year's "The Warning."

"Often, people get confused because they think we're electronic. But we play instruments," frontman Alexis Taylor says. "You dance, but you also have songs. It's like the most confusing thing in the world. I've never been someone who makes it on the computer and then re-creates it on the computer."

JASON MANNING

Hot Chip is the band with a hyper-electonrica sound that plays instruments.

For its third album, "Made in the Dark" (Astralwerks, Feb. 5), Hot Chip attempted to re-create that onstage chemistry in the studio.

"I was interested in changing the acoustic space from song to song, so you didn't know where it was coming from," Taylor says, citing Bob Dylan's "Self Portrait" as an inspiration. "Not just changing the style of song, but the way it's being recorded. I wanted to jump a bit between the two versions within the song, so you're literally playing it live, then it goes sequenced. This is really interesting to me."

Hot Chip wastes no time incorporating this technique on the new album. On opener "Out at the Pictures," the first portion is taken from a live recording at San Francisco's Fillmore, before abruptly shifting into the band's studio take. Elsewhere, there's a return to the balladry that early listeners heard on the group's first EP, "Mexico."

"It's actually great that Hot Chip straddle the line of electronic and pop so well," Astralwerks GM Glenn Mendlinger says.

Hot Chip's visual flair is key to the online marketing plan. "We plan to exploit this heavily," Mendlinger says. "There will be multiple videos, which we will promote through viral marketing and video players."

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PULLING AN 'AFFLECK': Actress Helen Hunt's feature directing debut, titled "Then She Found Me," premiere in the U.S. at the 19th annual Palm Springs International Film Festival as the opening-night feature on Jan. 3.

Preaching to the Masses

Gospel great Kirk Franklin continues to target the mainstream

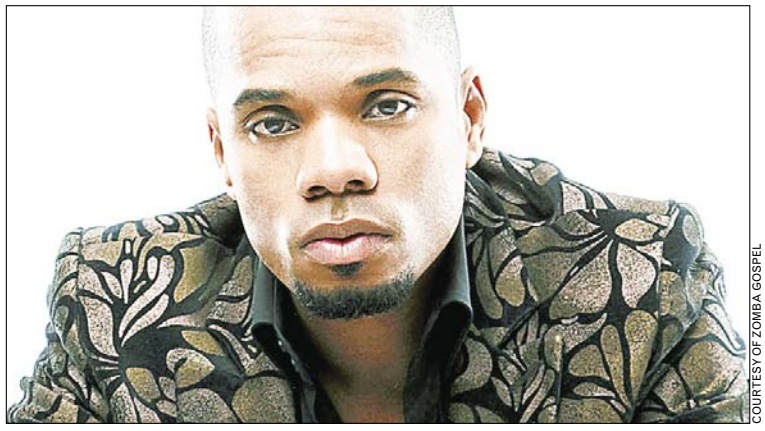
STOMP! | Kirk Franklin has forged a successful career creating cutting-edge gospel music that hits his audiences where they live. He does so again on "The Fight of My Life," due Dec. 18 on Fo Yo Soul/Zomba Gospel.

Franklin says the album's title sums up the way a lot of people are feeling. "A lot of people are trying to stay above water. People are fighting for their peace of mind and to keep their homes from being foreclosed or fighting for their children," he says. "I want people to know they aren't in it by themselves."

"The Fight of My Life" is Franklin's second release on his own Fo Yo Soul imprint, which is marketed and distributed via a partnership with Zomba Gospel.

The artist has won five Grammy Awards and 13 Gospel Music Association. Dove Awards; the most recent one was the 2007 urban recorded song of the year honor for "Imagine Me," from his 2005 album "Hero." That effort has shifted 909,000 copies in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

For "The Fight of My Life," he enlisted guest turns from Rance Allen, Da' T.R.U.T.H., Donovan Owens and the Williams Brothers. Franklin also teamed with tobyMac for "I Am God," which they recorded in Nashville.



COURTESY OF ZOMBA GOSPEL

THE GOOD FIGHT: Franklin tries to hit a you-are-not-alone chord on "Fight of My Life."

"When black people play rock music, it sounds like black rock," he says. "And what I wanted to do is have it sound very authentic. That's why I used Toby's band. We had it all [done] in a day."

Franklin also enjoyed working with Allen, one of gospel music's pioneers. "I just love him and his music," he says.

The album's first single, "Declaration (This Is It!)," is already saturating gospel and mainstream urban AC stations. The track "Jesus" is getting strong radio feedback, and "Help Me Believe" is a powerful song Franklin thinks will make an impact.

Zomba Gospel is mounting a major campaign to generate awareness of the genre. "We are doing a lot of things that are generally reserved for mainstream artists," Zomba Gospel senior director of marketing Damon Williams says.

Franklin will also have a great deal of TV visibility, including a Dec. 21 appearance on NBC's "Today." The release will also be heavily exposed on BET, on which the artist hosts the weekly series "Sunday Best" and will guest on the network's New Year's Eve countdown. DEBORAH EVANS PRICE (AP)

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Television

SUPER TROOPERS: The fifth season of "Reno 911" will premiere on Comedy Central on Jan. 15. The season will feature guest appearances by Christina Applegate, Seth Green, George Lopez and the queen of vulgar, Lisa Lampanelli.

Ready for Reruns?

With no end in sight for the writers' strike, new shows run low

LAST HURRAH | Original episodes of network offerings are dwindling down to a precious few.

"CSI" (9 p.m., CBS) offers a nod to the Michael Vick controversy in a story in which a rich socialite bites the dust while dabbling in a dogfighting racket.

Later, on "Without a Trace" (10 p.m., CBS), a college student working over the Christmas holidays as a department store Santa goes missing. Jack and his team can't tell whether the freelance Claus has been kidnapped or faked his abduction to cover his tracks while he works a crime spree from the inside. Along with last week's "Monk," this marks another criminally bad Santa.

Families converge for Christmas on "30 Rock" (9 p.m., NBC). Liz Lemon's doting parents (Buck Henry and Anita Gillette) arrive in town to see their "beautiful genius" daughter. Andy Richter guest-stars as her 40-year-old brother, suffering from a recent skiing accident that has left him thinking he's a 17-year-old. This should be a great turn for Richter, who looks and acts like he was born a 40-year-old man. Meanwhile, Jack's embittered mother (stage veteran Elaine Stritch) arrives. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

NBC

STYLIN': Catch a Baldwin in a Christmas sweater on "30 Rock" tonight.

ON TV TONIGHT

BELLISSIMA
A betrayed wife (Diane Lane) loses herself in a brief fling and in decorating a ramshackle Italian villa in the 2003 romantic comedy **UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN** (8 p.m., WE).

FROSTING GURU
THE ACE OF CAKES (10 p.m., Food) travels to New York to prepare a special dessert for the opening night gala for the 75th anniversary of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular.

OUCH
ULTIMATE FIGHTING: FROM BLOOD SPORT TO BIG TIME (10 p.m., CNBC) looks at a fast-growing "entertainment" niche.

THE BITTER END
The network-turned-cable drama **LAW & ORDER: CRIMINAL INTENT** (10 p.m., USA) wraps up its strike-shortened fall season with an episode that guest-stars Ben Vereen as a minister in a poor neighborhood who loses his son. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

COURTESY BUENA VISTA PICTURES

YOU GO, GIRL! Diane Lane, right, gets a pep talk in "Under the Tuscan Sun."

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	WTTG 5	News (N)	TMZ (N) CC	The Simpsons	Seinfeld CC	Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Don't Forget the Lyrics! (N) CC		News (N)		News (N)	TMZ CC
	WJLA 7	News (N) CC	ABC Wld News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ugly Betty "Family/Affair" CC		Grey's Anatomy "Love/Addiction"		(:02) Big Shots "The Better Man" (N)		News (N) CC	(:35) Nightline (N)
	WUSA 9	News (N) CC	Evening News	News	Entertainment	Survivor: China (N) CC		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (N)		Without a Trace "Claus and Effect"		News (N) CC	Late Show
	WDCA 20	Judge Judy (N)	Judge Joe Brown	King of Queens	King of Queens	★★ "An All Dogs Christmas Carol" (1998) CC			Santa's	Every-Raymond	King of the Hill	Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC	
	WMPT 22	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Business Rpt.	Your Business	MotorWeek CC	This Old House	Live From Lincoln Center "Jazz at Lincoln Center: Red Hot Holiday Stomp"				L.A. Holiday Celebration CC	
	WETA 26	BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Three Tenors Christmas CC			Blue Man Group: Inside the Tube			Suze Orman: Women & Money CC	
	WHUT 32	Tony Brown	Tavis Smiley	BBC World News	Moneywise	Anuna: Celtic Origins CC			Visions of Italy	BBC World News	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) CC	
	WDCW 50	My Wife and Kids	Family Guy CC	Two/Half Men	Friends CC	Smallville "Gemini" CC		Supernatural (N) CC		Family Guy CC	Friends CC	Two/Half Men	Sex and the City
BASIC CABLE	A&E	Cold Case Files "Lady in the Box"		CSI: Miami "Deadline" CC		The First 48 "Pack of Lies" CC		The First 48 Airline executive. CC		The First 48 CC		Dallas SWAT Heroin ring; warrant run.	
	Animal	The Crocodile Hunter CC		Meerkat Manor Family of meerkats.		Meerkat Manor "Love Thy Neighbor"		Meerkat Manor "Some Like It Hot"		Animal Precinct Ailing cats; dog fight.		Meerkat Manor Family of meerkats.	
	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Mario performs. (N) CC			The Black Carpet	Keyshia Cole: The Way It Is CC		American Gangster "D.C. Snipers"		Movie Special (N)	Movie Special	Hell Date CC	Hell Date CC
	Bravo	Real Housewives		Project Runway CC		Project Runway CC		Project Runway CC		Real Housewives		Real Housewives	
	Comedy	(5:00) "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" CC		Scrubs CC	Scrubs CC	Daily Show	Colbert Report	★★ "Super Troopers" (2001) Jay Chandrasekhar, Kevin Heffernan. CC				Daily Show	Colbert Report
	Court	World's Wildest Police Videos CC		Cops CC	Cops CC	Bait Car	Bait Car	American Jail	American Jail	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	LA Forensics	Hollywood Heat
	Discovery	How It's Made	How It's Made	Man vs. Wild "Panama" Panama.		Last One Standing "Peru" (N)		How It's Made	How It's Made	MythBusters Confederate weapon.		Futureweapons "Israel" (N)	
	DISCH	Code Blue Car-crash injuries. CC		Trauma: Life in the ER CC		Marriage Camp Parenting issues.		Dr. G: Medical Examiner CC		Little People, Big World CC		Marriage Camp Parenting issues.	
	Disney	Hannah Montana	Hannah Montana	Hannah Montana	Zack & Cody	★★★ "The Polar Express" (2004, Fantasy) Voices of Tom Hanks. CC				That's So Raven	Life With Derek	Zack & Cody	Hannah Montana
	E!	Kimora: Fab	Chelsea Lately	E! News (N)	The Daily 10 (N)	Snoop Father	Soup Presents	20 Most Horrifying Hollywood Murders Murders.				E! News	Chelsea Lately (N)
	FX	★★ "The Big Hit" (1998, Action) Mark Wahlberg, Lou Diamond Phillips.				★★★ "American History X" (1998, Drama) Edward Norton, Edward Furlong, Fairuza Balk.					★★★ "American History X" (1998) Edward Norton.		
	HGTV	Small Space	If Walls Could	House Worth?	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	Carter Can (N)	Divine Design	Color Correction	House Hunters	House Hunters	Property Virgins	Over Your Head
	Family	8 Simple Rules	8 Simple Rules	Drummer Boy	Drummer Boy	★★★ "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" (2004, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint. CC						The 700 Club CC	
	History	Engineering an Empire CC		Modern Marvels: Da Vinci Tech CC		Modern Marvels: Torture Devices		Gangland "Kings of New York" (N)		Ancient Discoveries CC		Mega Disasters "Mega Drought"	
	Lifetime	Reba CC	Reba CC	Still Standing	Still Standing	Reba CC	Reba CC	"Christmas Child" (2003, Drama) William R. Moses, Megan Follows. CC				Will & Grace	Will & Grace
	MTV	Next Top Model	America's Next Top Model CC		America's Next Top Model CC		America's Next Top Model CC		Run's House	Run's House (N)	True Life Long-lost fathers.		Run's House
	NICK	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101 CC	Back, Barnyard	SpongeBob	Drake & Josh	Full House CC	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	George Lopez	George Lopez	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
	SCIFI	Stargate SG-1 "Gemini" CC		"Unrest" (2006, Horror) Corri English, Scot Davis, Joshua Alba. CC				★★ "The Gravedancers" (2006, Horror) Dominic Purcell, Josie Maran. CC				"Wicked Little Things" (2006) CC	
	SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation CC		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation CC		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation CC		TNA iMPACT! (N)				MANswers CC	MANswers CC
	TBS	Friends CC	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Friends CC	Friends CC	Seinfeld CC	Seinfeld CC	Seinfeld CC	Seinfeld CC	Sex and the City	Sex and the City
	TLC	Flip That House	Flip That House	Overhaulin' "Episode 18" CC		Wrecks to Riches "1957 Chevrolet"		American Chopper CC		SEMA: World's Greatest Car Show		American Chopper CC	
	TNT	Law & Order "Who Let the Dogs Out"		Law & Order "A Losing Season"		NBA Basketball Washington Wizards at Miami Heat. From the American Airlines Arena in Miami.					NBA Basketball: Spurs at Lakers		
	USA	Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC		Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Criminal Intent (N)		House "Three Stories" CC	
	VHI	I Love the '90s: Part Deux "1996"		I Love the '90s: Part Deux "1997"		I Love the '90s: Part Deux "1998"		I Love the '90s: Part Deux "1999"		What Perez Sez About 2007		America's Most Smartest Model	
SPAN.	TELEM	Daniela	Noti-Telemndo	12 Corazones		Madre Luna		Victoria		Pecados Ajenos		·Al Rojo Vivo!	Mas Vale Tarde
	UNIV	Que Locura	Noticiero Univ	Yo Amo a Juan Querendón (N)		Amar sin Límites (N)		Pasión		Aquí y Ahora		Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.
SPORTS	ESPN	SportsCenter (Live) CC		Football Final	NFL Live CC	SportsCenter Special (N) CC		High School Basketball			SportsCenter (Live) CC		
	ESPN2	(5:30) X-Fighters	Football Live	Billiards: Men's 9-Ball Champ.		Billiards: Men's 9-Ball Champ.		Women's College Volleyball NCAA Championship Semifinal -- Teams TBA.				Varsity Inc. (N)	Football Live
	CSN	SportsNite CC	SportsNite CC	Best Damn Top 50 Special		College Basketball Miami at Mississippi State. (Live)				SportsNite (Live) CC		Washington Post Live	
NEWS	CNN	(4:00) The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight CC		Out in the Open		Larry King Live CC		Anderson Cooper 360 CC			
	FNC	Special Report (Live) CC		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (Live) CC		Hannity & Colmes (Live) CC		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor	
	MSNBC	Tucker		Hardball CC		Countdown With Keith Olbermann		Live With Dan Abrams		In the Shadow of Justice			
MOVIES	AMC	(5:45) ★★ "Above the Law" (1988, Action) Steven Seagal, Pam Grier. 'R'				★★ "Memphis Belle" (1990, War) Matthew Modine, Eric Stoltz. 'PG-13'				Mad Men "Indian Summer" CC		★★ "Memphis Belle" (1990) 'PG-13'	
	TCM	(:15) ★★★ "Jolson Sings Again" (1949) Larry Parks. Premiere. 'NR'				★★ "Stingaree" (1934, Musical) Irene Dunne. 'NR'			★★★ "Roberta" (1935, Musical) Irene Dunne, Fred Astaire. 'NR' CC				Show Boat (1936)
	HBO	(5:45) ★★★ "Ever After" (1998, Romance) Drew Barrymore. 'PG-13' CC				Costas NOW CC		★★ "The Hills Have Eyes" (2006, Horror) Aaron Stanford. 'R' CC				Taxicab Confessions: New York	
	MAX	(5:50) ★★★ "Superman Returns" (2006) Brandon Routh. The Man of Steel faces an old enemy.					★★★ "Notes on a Scandal" (2006) Cate Blanchett. 'R'			★ "Epic Movie" (2007) Kal Penn. 'PG-13' CC			Hollywood Sex
	SHOW	Fall From Grace	★★ "The Third Wheel" (2002) Luke Wilson. 'PG-13' CC			★★ "Into the Blue" (2005, Adventure) Paul Walker. iTV. 'PG-13' CC				Dexter "Left Turn Ahead" (iTV) CC		★★★ "Cocaine Cowboys" (2006)	
	TMC	The Visitation	(:35) ★★ "Game 6" (2005) Michael Keaton. 'R' CC			★★ "Hav Plenty" (1997) Chenoa Maxwell. 'R'			(:45) ★★ "Last Holiday" (2006, Comedy) Queen Latifah. 'PG-13' CC				Hustle & Flow 'R'
	STARZ!	(5:35) ★ "The Covenant" (2006) Steven Strait. 'PG-13'			(:20) ★ "The Quiet" (2005) Camilla Belle. 'R' CC			★★★ "The Pursuit of Happyness" (2006) Will Smith. 'PG-13' CC				★★★ "Independence Day" (1996)	
	ENCORE	★★★ "Glory Road" (2006, Drama) Josh Lucas, James Aaron. 'PG' CC				★★ "The Wild" (2006) Voices of Kiefer Sutherland. 'G'			★★ "The Da Vinci Code" (2006, Mystery) Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou. 'PG-13' CC				

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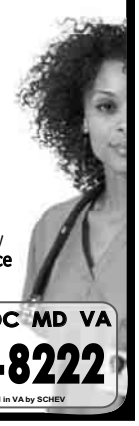

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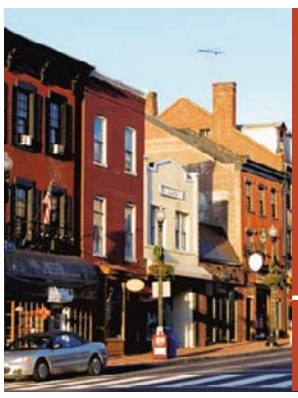

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Steps to Health

Technology

Pedometer program gives West Virginians a reason to exercise

Howard Wooten and Leonard Hovis are old pals who share a history of heart problems. Now they share a daily walk, logging about 1,400 miles per year.

Along with six other friends — all with similar health problems — Wooten and Hovis started walking on doctors' orders and along the way became the poster boys for a push to get people exercising in the least healthy part of the state.

In August, the West Virginia chapter of America On the Move distributed 902 pedometers and step-counting charts to residents of five southern counties who signed up for the program. Participants were asked to use the pedometers for six weeks, keep track of their steps and send in the results. The goal was to see whether pedometers encourage people to walk more.

Of all five counties involved, Logan took to the pedometers with the most enthusiasm — more than a third of the participants were from there. "Many of them thought they did a lot of walking, and they didn't," said Carol Cole, of Logan Regional Medical Center. "It was very eye-opening."

According to the state Department of Health and Human Resources, Logan is the most obese county in West Virginia.

"If people here are going to improve their health, we're going to need to do a lot more in terms of prevention," said Shannon Meade, who helped coordinate the program on behalf of the Logan County Family Resource Network.

Meade approached businesses, churches and even Girl Scout troops to drum up interest.

As organizers plan a second phase of the program, they're showcasing Logan as an example of how to target rural residents with severe health problems.

West Virginia On the Move Executive Director Sophia Werning argues that many people aren't aware that something as simple as walking can benefit them. Werning leads the state chapter of America On the Move, a Boston-based nonprofit that encourages people to improve their diet and exercise.

"A lot of people have the idea that you need to get a personal trainer or you need to devote hours and hours a day to fitness, and they think, 'That's not for me,'" she said.

Researchers looking at about 20 studies concluded that pedometers help people walk an additional mile each day, but only if they log their steps, according to the November issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"For a lot of people I've worked with ... just having it on their hip is encouragement to do more," said Karen Croteau, an exercise, health and sport sciences professor at the University of Southern Maine.

> "For a lot of people I've worked with ... just having [a pedometer] on their hip is encouragement to do more."
>
> **KAREN CROTEAU**, EXERCISE EXPERT

Two years ago, when Wooten started walking with friends at Chief Logan State Park, his cholesterol level was more than 280. Today, it's down to 120, and the 72-year-old has lost 20 pounds.

"My doctor says walking every day has been like a miracle pill for me," said Hovis, 67, a former Logan County clerk.

With pedometers, the friends learned their walks added up to roughly 4 miles per day.

But good health is just one of the benefits, the men say. What they really enjoy is the camaraderie, walking through the state park, talking and joking about everything from politics to college football.

And there are other motivations to make the daily trip to the park.

"He comes because he knows we'll talk about him if he's not there," Hovis says, pointing at Wooten.

"That's true," Wooten says. "But we talk about each other anyway."

TOM BREEN (AP)

JON C. HANCOCK/AP

THEY GO THE DISTANCE: Howard Wooten and Leonard Hovis, above left, walk in a park in Logan, W.Va. Above, Vickie Kuhn ties a pedometer onto one of her shoes.

LOOK out

Houseplants How-To

Gardening

Proper care, common sense will help keep inside greenery alive

They sit on grocery or home-improvement store shelves, waiting for someone to nurture them. But a worse fate could lie ahead — pots that are too small, too little sunlight or the worst of all: over-watering.

That's what a common houseplant can endure given an owner who knows little to nothing about plant care.

"I think people buy things on a whim," said Kate Hogan author of "37 Houseplants Even You Can't Kill." "They look at those beautiful flowers and think, 'That would look so beautiful on my sideboard.' But they're not looking ahead to a week from then."

It's easy enough to turn your thumb — and home — green. It just requires a little know-how, the right kind of plant and proper care.

LOWE'S/AP

A cornstalk plant makes an ideal in-home accessory because it's easy to maintain.

These steps will help stop even the most clueless gardener from becoming a plant killer.

Location, Location, Location

Instead of perusing a plant shelf and picking the first leafy item that catches the eye, plant experts recommend first identifying where the plant will live.

"Once you identify a location, you can figure out how much sunlight the plant will need," said Mike Gettler, a merchandising executive at Lowe's.

> "People buy things on a whim. They look at ... flowers and think, 'That would look so beautiful on my sideboard.'"
>
> **KATE HOGAN**, 'HOUSEPLANTS' AUTHOR

It's also important to pick plants that will thrive in your environment, be that a dry desert climate or a low-lit apartment, said Marie Iannotti, of the About.com Guide to Gardening.

In-Store Checkup

Researching plant varieties beforehand is advisable, but reading the plant's label in the store is another option. Once at the store, pick a plant that already looks healthy.

"You don't want to buy a plant that is sick or has dropping leaves before you get it out of the store," Hogan said.

Watch the Water

After taking the plant home, the next step is to examine its the pot. A pot with little drainage can be a death sentence — especially combined with over-watering.

"You'd essentially be suffocating the plant," said Darin A. Pines, director and chief operations officer for U.S. Farms, Inc. "Just make sure the pot has drain holes in it."

Another way to avoid over-watering is to test the plant's tolerance, said Mike DuVall, senior live good merchant at Lowe's. Measure the water used to water the plant and then measure the runoff that leaves the plant.

"Everyone wants to over-water, and that is the death note for most house plants," DuVall said.

Set the Stage

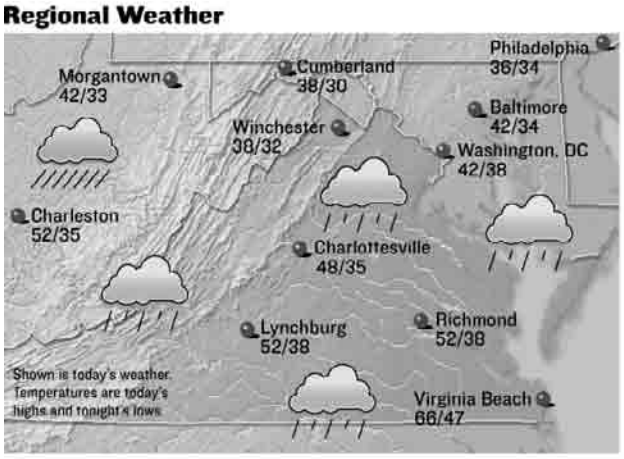
Finally, Hogan recommends keeping plant care easy by grouping plants together on a tray for convenient access.

"People want some pretty greenery in their home but most people don't want to spent a lot of time taking care of them," Hogan said. "The more you have things well set up, the more likely you are to take care of the plants." ANNIE FLANZRAICH (AP)

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Cloudy, showers, much colder	Rain early, clearing	Partly sunny	Snow, rain, breezy, colder	Clearing, windy, cold	Mostly sunny, cold
42°	38°	49° / 32°	40° / 32°	38° / 26°	37° / 26°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2007

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Wed.

Temperature

High	64°
Low	50°
Normal high	48°
Normal low	33°
Average humidity	68%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.96"
Normal month to date	1.17"
Year to date	30.61"
Last year to date	46.27"
Normal year to date	37.47"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

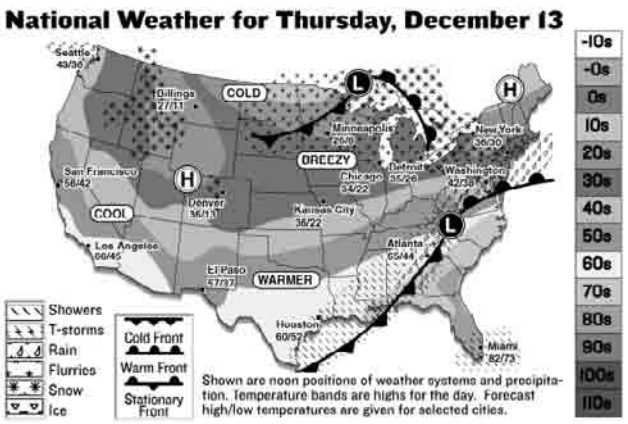
D.C. Metro: Today, cloudy, colder, showers. High 42. Wind southeast 6-12 mph. Tonight, rain early, clearing. Low 38. Wind north 4-8 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:18 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:47 p.m.
Moonrise today	10:26 a.m.
Moonset today	8:28 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Dec 17	Dec 23	Dec 31	Jan 8

National Weather for Thursday, December 13



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	65/44/sh	63/46/pc
Boston	32/25/sn	37/27/pc
Chicago	34/22/pc	30/20/c
Dallas	58/40/pc	52/36/r
Denver	36/13/c	26/8/sn
Honolulu	83/72/pc	82/70/pc
Los Angeles	66/45/pc	66/46/s
Miami	82/73/pc	82/71/c
New York City	36/30/sn	41/30/pc
Orlando	83/61/pc	81/63/c
Seattle	43/36/r	43/38/c

World Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Amsterdam	43/32/s	41/32/pc
Athens	55/46/r	54/45/r
Berlin	37/32/pc	36/30/c
Buenos Aires	88/63/s	88/68/pc
Calgary	33/9/c	19/10/pc
Dublin	50/39/pc	50/37/s
Geneva	39/26/pc	38/24/pc
Moscow	28/21/sn	27/23/sf
Rome	52/37/pc	50/36/pc
Sydney	72/63/c	75/65/pc
Tokyo	55/43/r	52/40/s

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Styles | Look out

American Eagle's recordable gift card, left, will immortalize your tidings of comfort and joy. Lest you get lost on the way to the manger, Target's is also a flashlight. J.C. Penney's is boring, but at least it fits in your overstuffed wallet.

In the Cards

This season's most popular gift is plastic

Gift cards can seem like an easy way out — a pocket-size piece of plastic with the smell of a last-minute cop-out.

But as impersonal as they may be, most people like getting them. This is the first year that the National Retail Federation's initial holiday consumer-spending survey found more people saying they'd like a gift card than any other category of gifts, including books and CDs, apparel and electronics.

"Consumers realize that what they've had their eye on all season can finally end up in their hands at the end of the season if they get a gift card," says NRF spokeswoman Kathy Grannis.

This is where retailers are stepping in as Santa's elves. They've jazzed up gift cards and come up with creative ways to personalize them. Now you can record an audio message for an American Eagle gift card, add someone's name to an American Express Gift Card, or download your own artwork as the backdrop for a gift card to home-improvement store Lowe's.

If time is of the essence, J.C. Penney will e-mail you an e-Gift Card before sending it to the intended recipient to give you a chance to add a personal message, or you can at least choose from dozens of designs at megastores like Target, zeroing in on a snowman that plays a holiday song for a child or one with a naughty or nice meter — perhaps for a teenager.

"We hope this commitment to design and innovation makes the holidays easier for our guests by making gift giving both easy and personal, and by giving our guests a wide selection of GiftCards — and products — from which to choose," says Target spokeswoman Lena Michaud.

The personal touch is as much for the giver as for the receiver, says Abby Buford of Lowe's.

"You want people to know you've put some work into it, that you've thought about that person," she says. "Maybe they're a fan of a certain kind of dog or they decorate an elaborate Christmas tree — now the gift card can reflect that."

Customization is a nice thought, says Lisa Lerner of Chappaqua, N.Y., but it's not going to change her plans. Teachers and teenage boys are the most likely gift card recipients because she honestly wouldn't know what to get them.

> "What they've had their eye on all season can finally end up in their hands."
>
> KATHY GRANNIS, NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION

"These are people I'd have trouble choosing for, and I think they'd rather choose their own gift and get something they want," she says.

According to an American Express Gift Card survey of 1,009 adults earlier in the season, the popularity of gift cards is actually changing the way people shop. Gift cards were expected to total a quarter of holiday gift spending, and more than two-thirds of those who buy gift cards said they finish their shopping sooner.

The National Retail Federation estimates that gift card spending over the holidays will total $26.3 billion. SAMANTHA CRITCHELL (AP)

Holiday

A Meditation

Mineral makeup,
We ad-ore ya,
You're made of mica,
And so we like yah.

With this box,
You can do your eyes,
Allergic? We surmise
That you will not break out in hives.

With this box,
You can paint your kisser,
Old BFs will say, "I miss her."
"If only I had never dissed her."

PUR MINERALS PICTURE PURFECT HOLIDAY COLLECTION ($29.50, PURMINERALS.COM)
HOLLY J. MORRIS (EXPRESS)

Beauty

Brick Layers

There are but few names one can call an expanse of makeup. There's "pan" and "cake." And there's "brick," as in Bobbi Brown's **PINK QUARTZ SHIMMER BRICK COMPACT** ($38, Bobbibrowncosmetics.com). It's not as bellicose as it sounds; we didn't want to throw it through a window, but rather to brush the mix of pink, gold and bronze onto our cheekbones. It works as a blush, a very light bronzer (if you mix in a bit more of the brown) and a subtle highlighter. It's versatile and it makes sense, two things we hardly ever get to say. H.J.M.

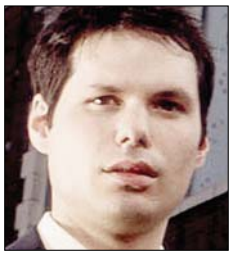
Look out Online

readexpress.com

site specifics

ENTERTAINMENT

It's That Guy



Michael Ian Black is a beloved member of cult sketch shows "The State" and "Stella," and he's that guy on VH1's "I Love the '80s" who isn't Mo Rocca. Express contributor Shauna Miller talked with Black about film, literature and chicken butts ahead of his stand-up show at Ottobar in Baltimore. | ONLINE NOW

BAGGAGE CHECK

Monkey Did, Human Didn't

New research by Japanese scientists shows that a 5-year-old chimp's short-term memory can outshine that of a college student. Dr. Andrea Bonior discusses why this discovery might be a healthy step in the advancement of cognitive science. | ONLINE NOW

GETTING AHEAD

The Fluent Season

Whether it's to study abroad or for international travel, many people are finding that they need to speak another language. Express' Katie Aberbach explores the world of foreign-language meetup groups and explains how you can get involved. | ONLINE NOW

comment board

"Even if global warming isn't man-made, we can definitely do more to be less wasteful and more mindful of the environment."

COMMENTER GW, WHO ADDED, "IF THE GORE-HATERS ARE WRONG, IT'S A MUCH BIGGER LOSS FOR EVERYONE. I [DON'T] CARE IF YOU LIKE AL GORE OR NOT; I LIKE MY EARTH, THANK YOU."

"So many naysayers want to waste time debating the existence of environmental problems; it seems there are so many other benefits to Earth-friendly living."

COMMENTER DC GRRL, WHO ADDED, "I'M GLAD TO DO MY GREEN LIVING PART — I MAY BE HELPING TO PRESERVE OUR FORESTS."

"Clearly, global warming is anthropogenic. It exists mainly in the human mind and is manufactured from two sources — careless data acquisition and dubious data processing."

COMMENTER JS, RESPONDING TO WEDNESDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "DO YOU THINK IT'S TOO LATE FOR HUMANS TO SLOW THE PACE OF GLOBAL WARMING?"

poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

DO YOU THINK IT'S TOO LATE FOR HUMANS TO SLOW THE PACE OF GLOBAL WARMING?

65% NO

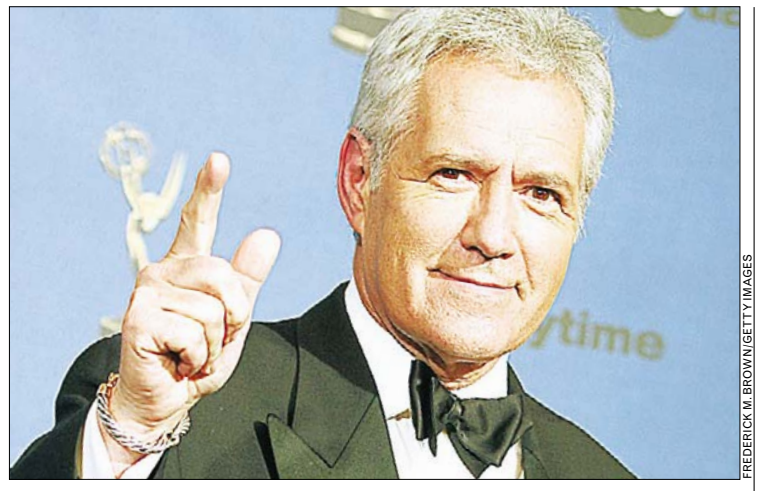
35% YES

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP

Blog LOG

"This collapse in Hillary's fortunes seems ... like ... Howard Dean. ... [S]he started with a poor debate performance and never recovered."

THE RIGHT-LEANING **CAPTAINSQUARTERSBLOG.COM** IS PREDICTING THAT DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON WILL CONTINUE TO LOSE GROUND IN IOWA.



FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

"I HOPE YOU recover soon, Alex. I hope you continue being the pretentious quiz show host I watch every night when I don't have to stay late at work."

ARJEWTINO.COM WISHES "JEOPARDY!" HOST ALEX TREBEK A SPEEDY RECOVERY AFTER TREBEK HAD A HEART ATTACK ON TUESDAY.

"FOLLOWING THE unexpected raid on his studio, his vacation may be a tense and paranoid one, in which he's too shell-shocked to open his front door and enjoy the singing of some Christmas carolers, for fear that some renegade ... operatives [are] ready to torment him."

DEFAMER.COM ON STRIKING WRITERS TAKING ACTION AGAINST CARSON DALY, WHO CONTINUES TO TAPE HIS TALK SHOW.

"THE WAY GOVERNMENT publishes information on money it spends, receives and owes is a joke. No one in this country has any real knowledge of how much our country really owes. There are so many hidden and unpublished liabilities that if our country were a public company, someone would go to jail."

BLOGMAVERICK.COM WANTS MORE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY.

"The good news is I had a $500 night [on Saturday]. The bad news is ... that the U.S. dollar is still going down the toilet at ... light speed, so the cash I made ... was worth, like, 10 euros. I think I'm going to have to demand [payment] in Indian rupees."

DCCABBIE.BLOGSPOT.COM NOTES THE CONTINUING DESCENT OF THE DOLLAR.

Discussions

Wizards Report

Post staff writers **IVAN CARTER** and **MICHAEL LEE** were online Wednesday to discuss the Washington Wizards' season and other NBA news.

Are the Wizards a better team without Agent Nacho in the lineup?
They are a more efficient team, and they run the Princeton offense better, but they are NOT a better team without Gilbert Arenas. His absence has forced other guys to take on bigger roles, and, so far, they have responded well. Arenas, though, has proven that he can handle a big role for a full season. Gilbert takes them from average to good to possibly great. I talked to an NBA coach who thought the Wizards can win with him down, but if you look at losses in Memphis and Philadelphia, the Wizards could've won those games if they had a real finisher like Gilbert.

Do you see Eddie Jordan getting serious consideration for coach of the year if the Wizards make the playoffs, given the injuries?
If this team plays above .500 all season after that 0-5 start, the Arenas injury and the absence of Etan Thomas, Eddie should certainly get a push for COY. It's too early to realistically speculate on what is going to happen next summer because so much of that will depend upon what happens the rest of this season.

What is the most likely/realistic destination for Jason Kidd if the Nets deal him?
I'd love to see him in Dallas. I think they need him more than the other teams that have been mentioned as destinations — Cleveland and Los Angeles — because the Mavericks are closer to winning a title.

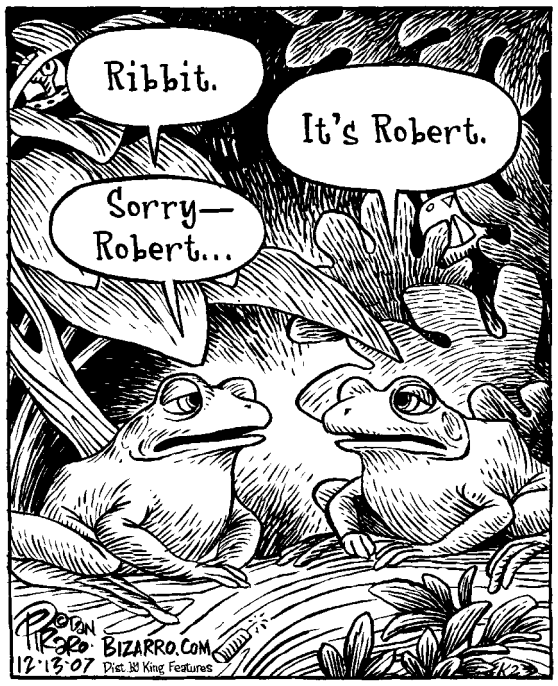
TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: Washington Post staff writer Jason La Canfora takes your questions about the Redskins at 1 p.m. | **washingtonpost.com/discussions.**

DO

EXPECT MORE MOTHS, MARYLAND. A state agriculture official says the number of wooded acres under attack by gypsy moth caterpillars could double next year. Forest pest manager Robert Tichenor says his agency is targeting 100,000 acres for pesticide spraying, up from about 50,000 this year.

Look out

Bizarro | *Dan Piraro*



Cornered | *Mike Baldwin*

"Stop beating a dead horse – we're getting too many air bubbles."

Pooch Cafe | *Paul Gilligan*

Pearls Before Swine | *Stephan Pastis*

The Duplex | *Glenn McCoy*

Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) What you say under pressure may be quite misleading. Take care to express yourself as accurately as possible under all circumstances.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You can begin building an important and profitable partnership with a Libra or Scorpio native — but be ready to take it slow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You'll be able to catch on to something that others may find confusing in the extreme. Show others the ropes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You're sure to get where you want to go, provided you concentrate on signposts that lead you along the most direct route.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your organizational skills have never been your strongest assets, but you may have to rely on them as never before. Don't be hasty.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Sensitivity and generosity combined can make you a hero of sorts to a great many people who are looking to you for what they most need right now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) The more thorough you can be in preparation, the more impressive you can be in execution. Others are watching.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) There is no need to judge anyone prematurely. Keep your opinions to yourself until all the evidence is in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) When inventing a new image for yourself, you're going to want to consider a number of variables that usually go unnoticed. Use care.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You may discover that two connected portions of an important message do not exactly make sense. Something may have been lost in translation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) That which was lost may not be found, but you'll realize just what value it really has to you. Attitudes regarding possessions may change.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) This is a good day for concentrating on domestic adjustments — particularly where siblings are concerned. It's time to get back in touch.

Letters

Keep Carpets on Metro

REMOVING CARPETS from the Metro is outrageous. How can the board and chief approve such recommendations when the great spending is elsewhere? Now, riders not only have to pay the current fare, which is already too high, but they will also pay the price by riding like commuters in New York, on trains that look old and are not comfortable. To make things worse, a person asked in Express: "How can more sardines be packed on the same can size?" Who is this person calling sardines? Humans? Let this person pay by his own words, but do not let this happen to all Metro riders.

—ERNESTO SANCHEZ
Via e-mail

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

Today in History

1769 Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, receives its charter.

1862 Union forces suffer a major defeat to the Confederates at the Battle of Fredericksburg.

1918 President Wilson arrives in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.

1978 The Philadelphia Mint begins stamping the Susan B. Anthony dollar, which went into circulation in July 1979.

2002 Cardinal Bernard Law resigns as Boston archbishop because of the priest sex abuse scandal.

AP

Law resigned as Boston archbishop.

PostPoints DAILY CODE CX

Look out | People

MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Daniel died Sept. 10, 2006; ANS, Feb. 8.

NON-CLOSURE

Daniel Smith Death Inquest Continues

The dangerous amount of methadone taken by **ANNA NICOLE SMITH**'s son caused his death, the Bahamian police's forensics chief said Tuesday. "Even if there were no other drugs present ... the methadone level would be enough to set off alarms," said Superintendent Quinn McCartney. The inquest was adjourned until Jan. 28. (AP)

GUILT

'Transformers' Residuals Powerful Impetus to Silence

SHIA LABEOUF no longer faces criminal charges for refusing to leave a downtown Chicago drugstore last month. The 21-year-old was in court for only a few minutes Wednesday before prosecutors said they had received a letter from Walgreen Co. and a security company saying they didn't want to continue the case. LaBeouf, unshaven and wearing a black jacket, didn't speak but smiled at the news. (AP)

KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/AP

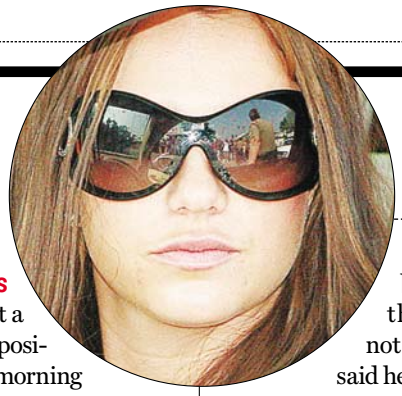
PREGGERS

<Insert Cash Pun>

JESSICA ALBA and her boyfriend, producer **CASH WARREN**, are expecting a baby. "I can confirm that Jessica and Cash are expecting a baby in late spring/early summer," said Alba's publicist, Brad Cafarelli, said. The couple met on the set of "The Fantastic Four." Alba co-starred in the 2005 film, and Warren was a director's assistant. (AP)

COMPARISON

We Need Britney To Love Ourselves



The cop reflected in her glasses: a poignant touch.

BRITNEY SPEARS was a no-show at a court-ordered deposition Wednesday morning in her ongoing child custody dispute with Kevin Federline. A throng of news media was waiting for her to show up at 10 a.m. at attorney Mark Vincent Kaplan's office. About an hour later, Kaplan, Federline's attorney, said he had been informed that Spears was not coming. Kaplan said he was told Spears didn't feel well. "She's going to show at a later date," Kaplan said, "but we don't waive any rights to ask for certain relief from the court as a result of having a court-ordered deposition not attended." (AP)

CONVALESCENCE

Daughter of Johnny Cash Recovering From Surgery

ROSANNE CASH was recovering at her Manhattan home following brain surgery last month for a rare but benign condition. Cash was back home Dec. 4 and "recovering comfortably from her surgery, which took place on November 27," said a posting on her Web site. "She extends thanks and appreciation for all the love, good wishes, prayers and kindness." (AP)

ENERGY

'I Jet-Pooled Here!'

"I changed all the lightbulbs to energy-safe lightbulbs and I'm buying a hybrid car right now," **PARIS HILTON** said Wednesday. The heiress said she turns off the lights, doesn't leave the TV on or the water running when she leaves her house. "Little things that people can do every day to make a huge difference," she said. She was in Berlin to take part in an advertising campaign for Rich Prosecco, a sparkling wine sold in cans. Hilton told reporters she's looking for a boyfriend, who "should be funny, smart and loyal." (AP)

SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

Using air kisses instead of real kisses lets lipstick last longer, pollute less.

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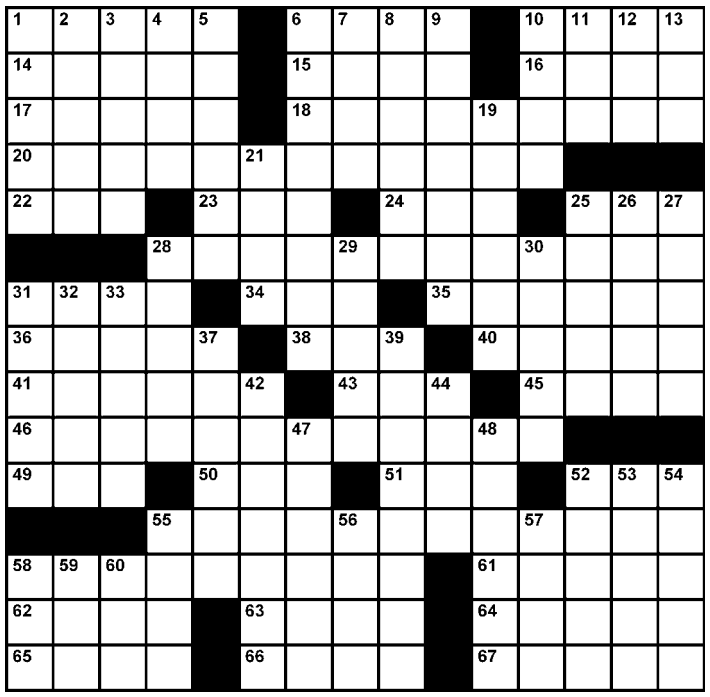
LOOK out

CROSSWORD | MY FAVORITE THINGS

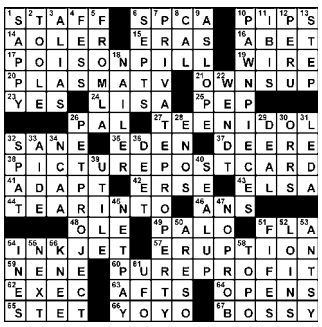
EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER



ACROSS
1 Insect stages
6 ___ and terminer
10 Came back to earth
14 "Confessions of Zeno" novelist Svevo
15 "Arrivederci Roma" singer Jerry
16 Surrender possession
17 At quite an incline
18 Emission
20 School favorites
22 Pelagic hunting bird
23 Get under one's skin
24 Friday's rank (Abbr.)
25 Directly, directionally
28 Movie favorites
31 F.D.R.'s Scottie
34 "Livin' Thing" grp.
35 Gets nasty outside, in a way
36 Mentally responsive
38 Ubangi's feature
40 Bone cavities
41 Bridge positions
43 BMOCs, often
45 One-horse carriage
46 God's favorites
49 "___, team!"
50 Bald-faced item
51 Napoleon, to Wellington
52 "Mamma ___!"
55 Preferred offspring
58 Like the U.S. legislature
61 Part of a Sikorsky vehicle
62 Electrical letters
63 Not on Memorex
64 Single-handed
65 Gather in the boardroom
66 Not tacit
67 Exhausted

DOWN
1 Hard-packed ski run
2 Emit a sound
3 Joyous hymn
4 "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" cad
5 Loren of Hollywood
6 Effort that goes further than necessary
7 Some edible roots
8 Pass by, as time
9 Commits a faux pas at the bridge table
10 Isn't idle
11 Organic token
12 Common oath
13 Top of some ratings
19 Hun head
21 Deco designer
25 Performs, to the Bard
26 Prefix for "sonic"
27 Test format
28 Stores at many stations
29 Hush breaker
30 Cement-headed
31 Something to tickle
32 Honolulu greeting
33 Bad, bad Brown of song
37 What a con may be on
39 Did a story on
42 Whines
44 Dry cleaner's concern
47 City on the Illinois River
48 Ogle
52 Type of oil
53 "___ ear and out ..."
54 Comparable to a beet
55 It's incontrovertible
56 ___ Shankar, sitar strummer
57 One-man performances
58 Batman comic word
59 Food preserver
60 Alphabetical run

Yesterday's Solution



SUDOKU | MEDIUM

© PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. See www.sudoku.com for solution, tips and computer program.

Need more Su|do|ku?
Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

	9		1	5			8	
6						9		7
				9				4
				8			9	
			7		9			
	1			3				
2				7				
4		7						2
	5			1	2		3	

Yesterday's Solution

6	3	8	7	5	4	1	2	9
5	9	7	8	2	1	3	4	6
4	2	1	3	9	6	8	7	5
2	8	5	1	4	7	6	9	3
7	1	6	2	3	9	5	8	4
9	4	3	6	8	5	7	1	2
1	6	4	5	7	2	9	3	8
8	7	2	9	6	3	4	5	1
3	5	9	4	1	8	2	6	7

express

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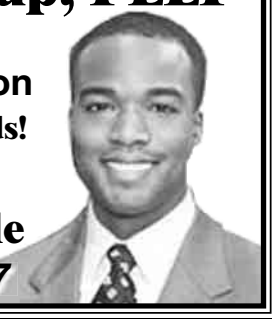

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PAGE E5

CHRIS COMBS/EXPRESS

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[on the] spot

NAME: Mark Jaster
GIG: Christmas Revels' 'Will Kemp'

YOU DON'T GET much more traditional than the Washington Revels' Christmas Revels. Started 50 years ago by the late John "Jack" Langstaff, the celebration of winter solstice is a merry mélange of medieval music, drama and dance. Each year, the large-scale production revolves around a different theme, and this year's Elizabethan motif called for the court jester talents of Mark Jaster, the area's best known, um, fool (we mean that nicely). The veteran Revel and local mime will play the role of Will Kemp, the original clown prince of Billy Shakespeare's theatrical troupe.

For the uninitiated, can you explain the Christmas Revels?
It takes traditional material and brings it alive. It's big, it's inclusive, it's community. There's a great chorus of 30 people, there's a children's chorus, and there are two bands — an early music band and a brass ensemble. It's a huge spectacle. The songs are not really standard fare, but there are a few people will recognize. It's not gonna be the stuff that you hear in the shopping mall.

What is it like reviving the persona of Shakespeare's most famous comic actor, Will Kemp?
It is a challenge, but it's been a lot of fun. I've done a little research and reading, but mostly I have to work with the script that Revels has generated, so I need to make him alive now in this play. Ultimately, it's not about history, but about who we are right now.

Can you talk about your background as a mime?
You wouldn't even know I was a mime, looking at this role. I'm talking from the minute you walk in the theater. But I studied with Marcel Marceau and served as Marceau's teaching assistant in the '80s in a series of seminars he taught.

SABRINA MANDELL

MOTLEY FOOL: Local performer Jaster suits up to play Shakespeare's Will Kemp.

Where else have you performed in the D.C. area?
My wife, Sabrina Mandell, and I did a show last January at the Round House Theatre of Silver Spring called "The Seven Ages of Mime." And we also performed both this past year and the year before in the Capital Fringe Festival. I performed for many years at the Round House Theatre and at the Maryland Renaissance Festival.

Christmas Revels invites the audience to join in. Does the Christmas crowd ever get out of control?
No, they don't really. I think you're probably talking about the "Lord of the Dance" — the song leaders lead several long, snaking aisles of audience members out in the lobby, and they go on forever and ever. Everybody's welcome to join in.

Sometimes it seems a little wild if you step in the lobby of Lisner Auditorium and you have eight lines of people snaking up and down the stairs. TONY SCLAFANI

> "The songs are not really standard fare, but there are a few people will recognize."

➜ *Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st St. NW; Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Sat., 2 & 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m., $12-$40; 800-595-4849, revelsdc.org. (Foggy Bottom-GWU)*

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Pirates Spied in Bethesda

'Treasure Island' sails for adventure amid a sea of holiday shows

STAGE | Parents searching high and low for adult-friendly, non-red-and-green kids' theater this holiday season can call off the hunt. Then, dust off the old wooden leg, strap on your most intimidating eye patch and set sail for "Treasure Island."

Directed by Blake Robinson, Round House Theatre's version of Ken Ludwig's adaptation of this classic novel is an adventure for the entire family. And chaperones will be happy to know there are no crayon-colored backdrops or giant singing parrots.

Young Jim Hawkins — convincingly played by actress Marybeth Fritzky — is forced to help his mother operate the family inn after his father dies. Here, he meets Billy Bones, an on-the-run pirate who, upon his deathbed, charges Jim with the safety of a treasure map.

DANISHA CROSBY/ROUND HOUSE THEATRE

A stark set and clean lighting are part of Blake Robinson's no-frills approach.

Circumstances force Jim to share the secret of his new map with friends, one of whom happens to be a blabbermouth with a ship. Another, a stranger who claims to be an old friend of his father's, is really Captain Long John Silver, leader of a pack of priates who lay claim to the map and its treasures.

Suddenly, Jim and his friends are on course with Silver and his crew from England to the West Indies to find the buried riches. But before long, there's mutiny on the ship and the crew splits into the good versus the bad.

And after a series of well-choreographed, action-packed fight scenes, the good guys win. Lesson learned, tots entertained, and everyone is happy. Even Dad.

DARONA WILLIAMS (EXPRESS)

→ *Round House, 4545 East-West Highway, Bethesda, through Dec. 30, $20-$60; 240-644-1100. (Bethesda)*

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→ **TRACY MORGAN** Lisner Auditorium, March 1, tickets go on sale Fri., $23.60-29.50; 800-551-7328.

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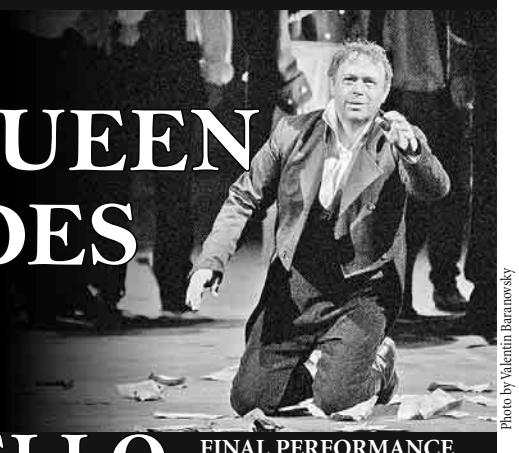

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PHOTOS BY CHRIS COMBS/EXPRESS

KEEPING IT COOL: Mancini celebrates the first snow of the season — and her last Housemates show of an exhausting year, taking place just up the street at the Black Cat.

Busy Signals

Olivia Mancini is a 1-woman, 4-band music-making machine

MUSIC | "You can always make time for the things you love," Olivia Mancini said a year and a half ago, when indie-pop-rock band Olivia Mancini & the Housemates was new to the D.C. scene. Now, it's become almost a motto. The way she says it, it's less a cliché and more a kick in the pants.

This is a roundabout way of saying that Olivia Mancini is a busy woman.

"I'm not monogamous," she says with a laugh, referring to the four bands she's a part of. "I like to play a lot of different instruments, and I like a lot of different kinds of music."

Two of her bands will play this weekend: the Housemates on Friday at the Black Cat, Washington Social Club heading up the "Washington Social Christmas" at the 9:30 with Jukebox the Ghost, Exit Clov, Caverns, the Dance Party and Laura Burhenn on Saturday.

The Housemates were born when Mancini had written some songs that didn't fit with WSC. She assembled a band to play her upbeat, playful tunes. "I knew I wanted Ed Donohue to play guitar, and he was living in this house ..."

Mancini was hanging out and playing music with Donohue and his housemate Jonathan Roth, a drummer, when Kristin Forbes, the third housemate, appeared. "She was like, 'Hey, guys, sounds good,' and then she left with a guitar case," Mancini says. "I turned around to John and Ed and said, 'Does she play? Because that would make this whole thing very easy.'"

It's not just Mancini who likes to juggle: Forbes (bass, vocals) has the Kristin Forbes Band. Donohue (lead guitar) has Donny Hue and the Colors, which also features Randy Scope (guitar) and Dan Swenson (trumpet, organ, guitar). And so on. Also, the Housemates no longer live together; though Roth still lives in the same Arlington house, the others have moved on — Donohue to New York.

The Housemates aren't housemates anymore, but the band soldiers on.

"We're a very modern band," Mancini says, explaining that the group communicates via e-mail and phone and sends MP3 recordings back and forth. For their upcoming album, "This Kind of Life," the instrumentation was recorded in two days, and Mancini and Scope produced and recorded the lyrics over the course of the next year.

The Housemates may play for a living, but it's hard work. Mancini recalls a practice session during which, after a particularly tough song, Forbes exclaimed, "Hey, look at my bass!" "And it was just covered in blood," Mancini says. "She must have nicked her finger and she just kept going.

"That's the kind of tenacity that I appreciate." RACHEL KAUFMAN

➜ *Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; with Junior League, Vandaveer, Fri., 9 p.m., $10; 800-551-7328. (U St-Cardozo)*

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2 Now why didn't anyone think of this before? TPS Art Gallery and music label A Bitter Hello team up to host a multimedia evening. Local bands play amid the art and photography, art purchases (and the cover) will benefit children with Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

➜ *TPS Art Gallery, 257 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon; Sat., 7-11 p.m., $5; abitterhello.com.*

HILLWOOD'S RUSSIAN WINTER

Let It Snow

3 Forget Dickens' Victorian Christmas — the real, snowy, glamorous deal can be found at the Russian Winter Festival at Hillwood. Grandfather Frost and the Snow Maiden tell Russian folk tales, and dancers and a folk music ensemble wil perform, all amid the estate's Russian opulence.

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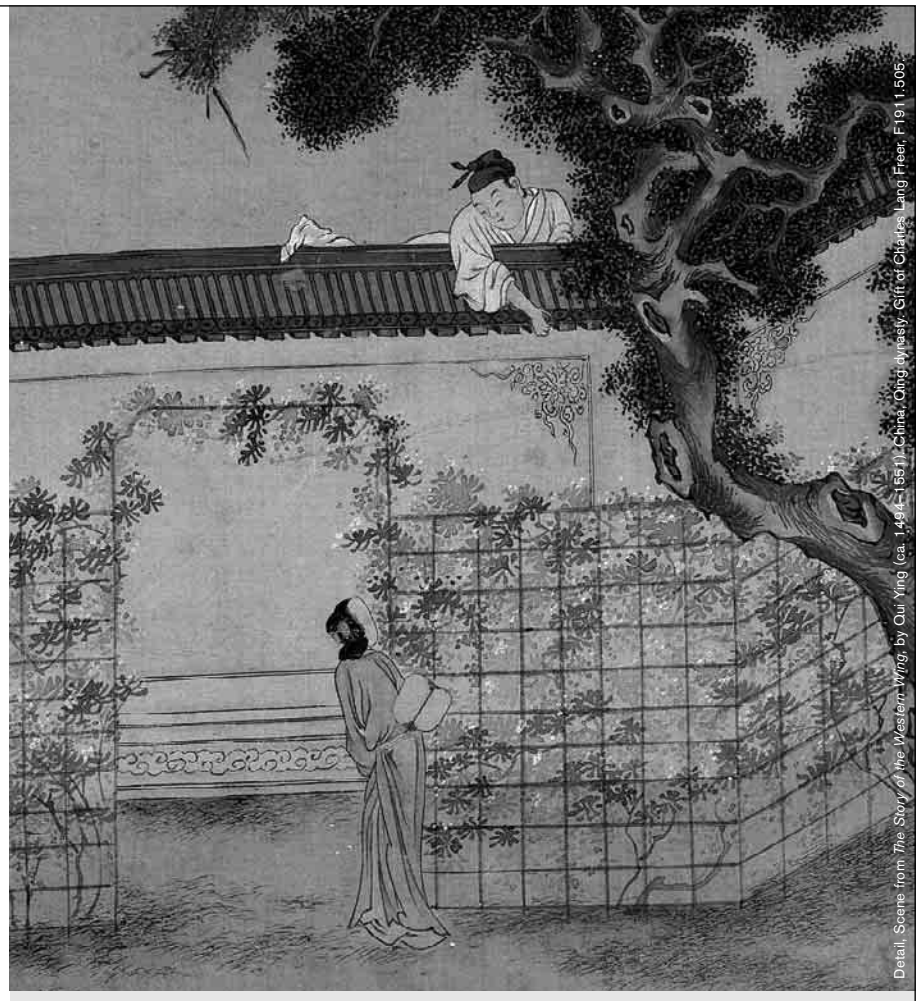

Detail, Scene from *The Story of the Western Wing*, by Qui Ying (ca. 1494–1551), China, Qing dynasty, Gift of Charles Lang Freer, F1911.505

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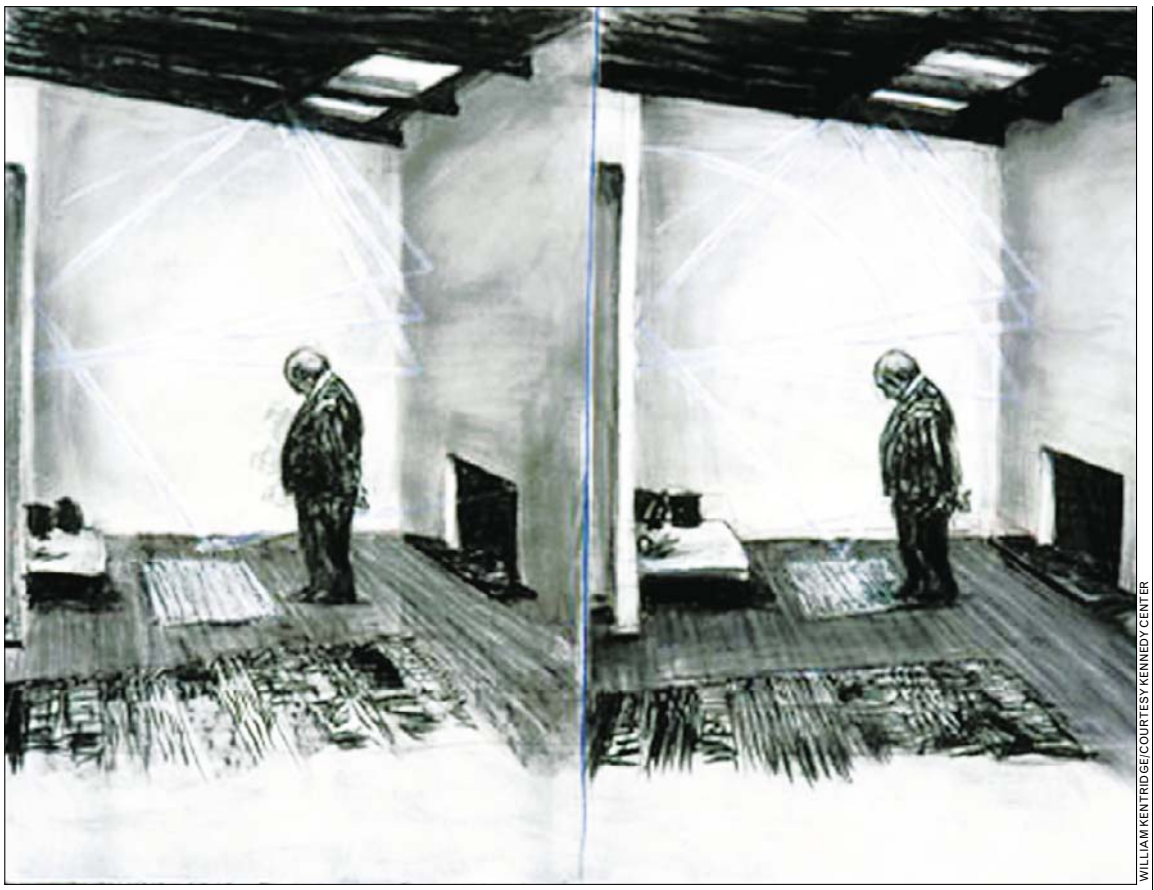


WILLIAM KENTRIDGE/COURTESY KENNEDY CENTER

THE DELUGE: In William Kentridge's "Stereoscope," a middle-aged man begins to leak, pouring out loneliness and disquiet.

African Elegies

William Kentridge's animated films move into the concert hall

FILM | Viewers of the Hirshhorn's 2001 retrospective of South African artist William Kentridge are familiar with his methods. His animated shorts record the multiple states of just a handful of charcoal and pastel drawings. For each shot, he erases part of the image, draws in new details and makes a photograph.

If traditional animation is about cheating time, frame by pristine frame, Kentridge's is about confronting its inexorable flow. You can slow it down, take it up to examine it, but you can never go back, never completely efface the echoes of what happened before.

His work is the perfect means of plumbing the tragedy of South Africa. There may be truth and reconciliation, but there is also memory, fluid yet unforgiving.

This week, the Kennedy Center will host "9 Drawings for Projection," an evening of Kentridge shorts in which Philip Miller's soundtracks are performed live by string quartet, piano, trumpet and voice.

Kentridge considers Miller's scores not as mood music but as a vital element that binds the films together. "One of the things that I worked [with] when listening to music quite early on at the start of this was finding something in the Dvorák piano quartet that transformed how the image looked. And it had to do with a kind of background rhythm. It wasn't in the front part of the string quartet. I guess it would have been played by the cello. But it was a descending set of notes that repeated themselves, which had the effect of a wheel turning. It had a sense of turning the projector, of making the image move," Kentridge says.

> **If traditional animation is about cheating time, Kentridge's is about confronting its flow.**

"I'm not sure that's specifically a post-romantic element," he continues, "but it's certainly something that was a kind of surprise — how well that worked with the images, and how when that was missing from the music, very often the images shattered. They lost their coherence."

The performances will also feature newer works, such as "Journey to the Moon," a tribute to pioneering cinema magician Georges Méliès, and the dreamlike "Tide Table," inspired by several generations' experience of South Africa's shifting seaside. GLENN DIXON

➜ *Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; Thu., 7:30 p.m., $20; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom-GWU)*

Finding The Freak Within

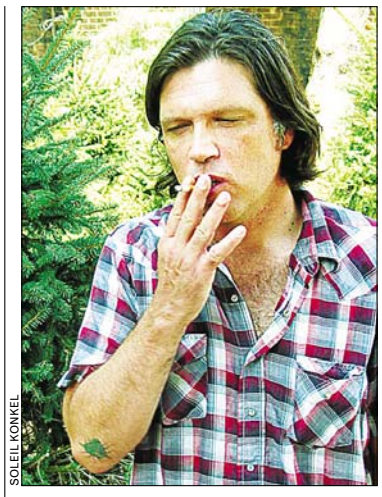
Indie-rootsiana star Richard Buckner has a taste for the fringe

MUSIC | Richard Buckner sings his literature. His rich, haunted baritone sketches impressionistic song-stories of lives adrift.

But over nine albums, Buckner's restless musical appetite has frequently stretched the predictability of Americana. He confesses to a love for minimalist drone pioneer Tony Conrad; he's enlisted post-rock mastermind John McEntire, Marc Ribot and Giant Sand. His latest, "Meadow," collects members of Guided by Voices and the Mekons.

Yet somehow each song could only be a Buckner. "Actually, you can screw up a good song," says Buckner. "If I hear one more artist covering 'My Funny Valentine,' I'm gonna freak out.

"The point of having other players interpret your ideas is to have your particulars taken away from you," he says, meaning the familiar patterns the fingers and brain naturally fall into. "I've found that putting artists together who normally wouldn't have played together ends up with something that nobody, myself included, could've come up with."



SOLEIL KONKEL

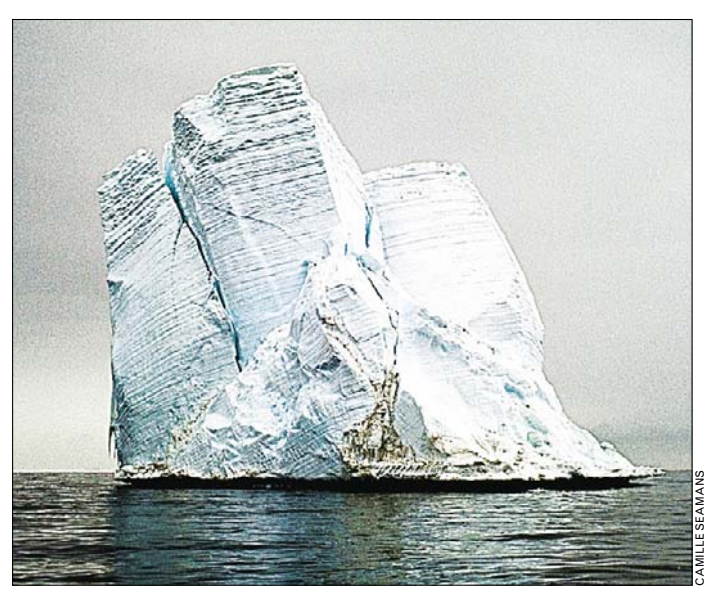
Richard Buckner's music has been compared to that of Townes Van Zandt.

But we all know the reaction when Dylan went electric. Honestly, says Buckner, "I don't want to know what anybody thinks of what I do."

The working musician's lifestyle "takes a toll on basics like personal relationships and finance. That said, though, we see a side of the world that no one else sees. Toll and liberation end up being the same thing." BOB MASSEY

➜ *Iota, 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; Thu., 9 p.m. $13; 703-522-8340. (Clarendon)*

PHOTOGRAPHY | FROZEN HISTORY



CAMILLE SEAMANS

THE BIG MELT: Camille Seaman captures the majesty and delicacy of icebergs of the Antarctic and Arctic in "The Last Iceberg" at the National Academies' Keck Center. The photographs are part of "Melting Away," a project documenting shifts in the geography and habitat of the polar regions.

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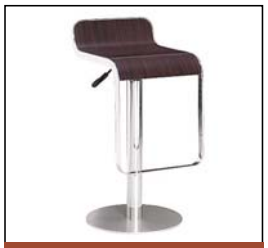
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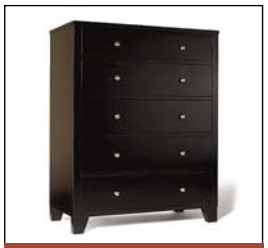
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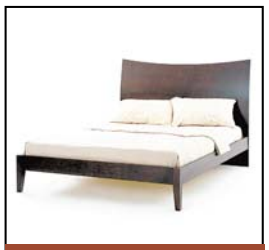
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The Art of Reinvention

Diablo Cody garners buzz for her film script and for her backstory

FILM | Good news! Diablo Cody is always happy to discuss getting naked. "I'll talk about stripping until I'm blue in the face!" says the pole dancer-turned-screenwriter.

But "Juno" — her much-anticipated comedy about a teen girl's unplanned pregnancy — is catalyzing an unofficial Diablo Cody FAQ: No, she was never pregnant as a teenager; the film idea arose from her comic appreciation for awkward social situations; she got discovered via her blog with the unprintble name. Got it?

The blog became a memoir, "Candy Girl: A Year in the Life of an Unlikely Stripper," which year involved a manager who encouraged her to try writing a screenplay. She coughed up "Juno." Studio execs lost their minds for it.

Cody's Suicide Girl looks probably didn't hurt in pitch meetings.

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

BIG DECISIONS: Screenwriter Diablo Cody turns a potentially melodramatic situation into a comedy of awkwardness in "Juno."

"I still don't understand act structure at all," she confesses. Though cool tats wouldn't help without her gift for zingy, witty dialogue and charming characters. "But all I contributed is the skeleton," she insists. "The beauty and vitality and life came from all these amazing people."

Primarily Ellen Page, who deftly portrays the loveable wisenheimer of the title. And whose insouciant abortion plan is itself aborted, hilariously. "I was feeling a little mischievious when I wrote that," says Cody, "to make people laugh at a scene set in an abortion clinic."

But, she says, "I sometimes shudder to think how truly cloying and obnoxious the film could have been if we'd had actors doing sitcom delivery."

Happily, she got alums of the anti-sitcom "Arrested Development." Michael Cera plays Paulie, Juno's paramour and best nerd-linger pal; and Jason Bateman embodies arrested development as Mark, an ex-rocker now married to baby-fevered suburbanite Jennifer Garner.

The couple wants Juno's baby. And Mark wants Juno. "Interestingly, the people who are hardest on Mark are usually men," Cody says. "They see the worst of themselves in him. I thought they'd be all 'Right on! He needs to get up in that bitch's tizzie!'" Which we think is stripper lingo for "her junk." Truth is, says Cody, "I am that guy." Pardon? "In terms of being in a suspended state of adolescence." BOB MASSEY

→ *opens fri., area theaters.*

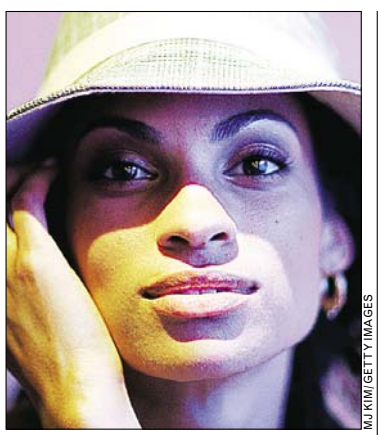
Independent Woman

Chanteuse Goapele's voice offers chicken soup for the neo-soul

MUSIC | "I'm independent again," says Goapele.

The independence she's referring to is her severed relationship with bigwigs Sony/Columbia, who co-released and distributed her luminous yet underheard sophomore disc, "Change It All," in conjunction with her indie label, Skyblaze.

Goapele is one of R&B's most interesting artists, who, along with a honeyed, pliant voice, is blessed with a penchant for writing captivating but sometimes elusive songs that superbly balance the personal and political. Her music draws influences from hip-hop, jazz, R&B and rock. And when she deals with social issues, as on songs such as



M.J.KIM/GETTY IMAGES

The Bay Area singer combines old-school lushness with street smarts.

"Find a Way," "Change It All" and "Red, White & Blues," she delivers message music without sounding preachy.

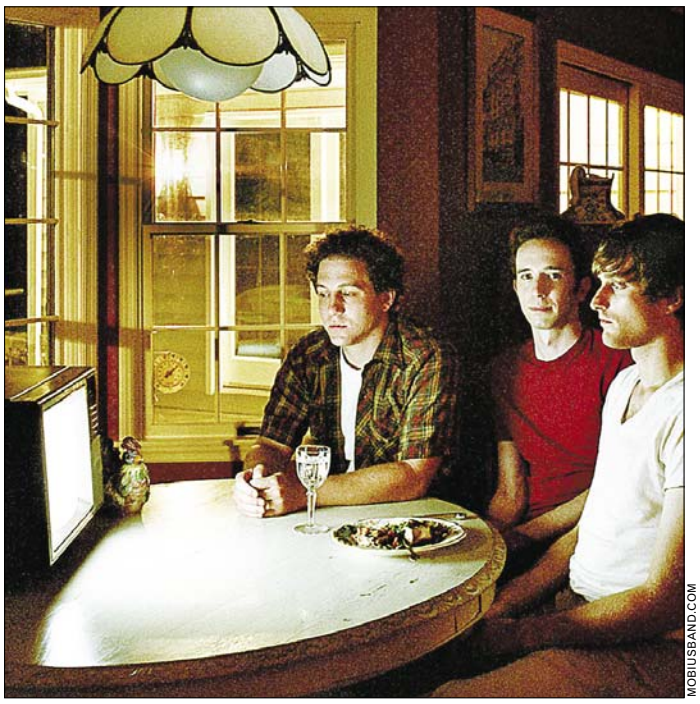
Still, she wonders whether her willingness to address political issues was a stumbling block for Columbia Records. "I definitely thought about it," she says. "But I think it's my responsibility to express myself honestly and talk about relevant issues, because some people do listen to lyrics."

Despite garnering head-spinning critical acclaim, Goapele remained in her hometown of Oakland, where she first developed her following after returning from Boston's Berklee College of Music. Her 2001 limited-release EP, "Closer," and its fleshed-out 2002 version, "Even Closer," put Goapele on the underground R&B map.

Friday night at the 9:30 Club, she'll show just how commanding her artistry is, with or without a bigwig endorsement. JOHN MURPH

→ *9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; Fri., 9 p.m., $25; 800-955-5566. (U St.-Cardozo)*

INDIE-POP | STRIP TEASES



MOBIUSBAND.COM

WORLD WITHOUT END: Mobius Band's mellow electronic beats add a twist to its indie sound, reminiscent of a poppier the Postal Service. The trio plays at the Rock and Roll Hotel on Friday with local mainstays Middle Distance Runner, making a hometown stop in its East Coast tour.

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Duty, Honor, Crazy

Shohei Imamura's lunatic search for the soul of modern Japan

FILM | "Dear Sis, we're starving. Go back to whoring. Please."

So reads the note that prostitute-turned-nurse Sonoko receives from her younger siblings in "Dr. Akagi."

That matter-of-fact mixture of the outrageous and the ordinary are standard operating procedure for Shohei Imamura (1926-2006), whose retrospective wraps up over the next two weeks at the Freer/Sackler and the AFI Silver. The letter additionally conveys the Japanese director's obsessions with family, duty, propriety and shifting moral codes.

Even if you've missed the opening weeks of "A Man Vanishes: The Legacy of Shohei Imamura," it's not too late to catch a quarter of his 20 features.

Set in the waning months of World War II, 1998's "Dr. Akagi" (Fri., 7 p.m., Freer) is a farce played for keeps, as Akira Emoto's small-town physician juggles a frenzied routine with secret hepatitis research while every last subject of the emperor is prepared by a militaristic monoculture for one last, futile battle.

Believing that ultra-conformist Japan had some pretty untidy beginnings, Imamura turned his sights on Kuragejima, an isolated dot in the Ryukyu Islands, for 1968's "The Profound Desire of the Gods" (Sun., 2 p.m., Freer). As the Futori family does penance for multigenerational incest and fishing with explosives, their friends and neighbors welcome corporate exploiters from the mainland. Trapped between the cruel, animistic past and the careless, commercial present, the island's inhabitants are left as children of myth and Coca-Cola, spiritually homeless in the only place they know.

COURTESY AFI

SLIPPERY WHEN WET: "The Eel" is one of Imamura's odd, convincing love stories.

If that film presents Imamura at his most epic, 1997's "The Eel" (starting Dec. 22, AFI), a tale of a murderous cuckold who learns to transfer his affection from a solitary pet fish to a motley crew of social underdogs, represents a more private struggle.

Like "Akagi," "The Eel" culminates in a madcap brawl that splits the difference between slapstick and brutality, even while the picture as a whole — a ragged standoff between horror, satire, comedy and romance — remains touching, funny and bizarre. GLENN DIXON

➜ *Various sites, dates and prices; see asia.si.edu/events/films.asp and afi.com/silver/new/ for schedule.*

GALLERY | BELOW THE SURFACE

COURTESY HEMPHILL GALLERY

CELLULAR ONE: In "Mindless Pleasures" at Hemphill Fine Arts, James Huckenpahler uses 3-D rendering software to create scenes of molecular activity, geography and other nerdy stuff. The show runs in conjunction with David Byrne's "Upholstering the Self — Furnishing the Soul."

Dust to Dust to Dust

Anouilh's 'Antigone' picks apart tragedy while enacting one

STAGE | The nature of tragedies — and why audiences keep watching — is at the center of Jean Anouilh's existential, 1940s take on the Sophocles standard.

Forum Theatre's stark spin on the tale of familial duty and free will opens with Antigone (Katie Atkinson) outlining exactly who everyone is and exactly what's going to happen over the next two hours. She's the teenage daughter of the late King Oedipus. And in a desperate cycle that's been told and retold since the toga era, she's going to be put to death by her uncle, King Creon (Nigel Reed), for attempting to give her traitorous, dead brother Polynices a proper burial.

It'll be a bloodbath by curtain time, we're told, but this doesn't make us less beguiled by the disobedient teenager taking on the powers that be. "There are always going to be times when there are conflicts of interest, whether it's with family or government," says director Michael Dove. "This version is interesting because everything's on the surface. The characters are more human."

SARAH BECKER

DEATH OF THE ENDLESS: Katie Atkinson as Antigone and Nigel Reed as Creon.

Since Anouilh zapped any mention of gods, the play becomes more about the intellectual push and pull between Antigone and Creon than about fate.

This Creon is a business-suited bureaucrat more concerned with keeping the peace than shedding blood. In a scene that may surprise anyone who took high school drama, Creon succeeds in almost convincing us (and Antigone) that Polynices should just rot in the street. "It's exciting, because it says there's not always a right or wrong," says Dove. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

➜ *H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St NE; through Dec. 30, $15-$20; 202-489-1701, forumtd.org.*

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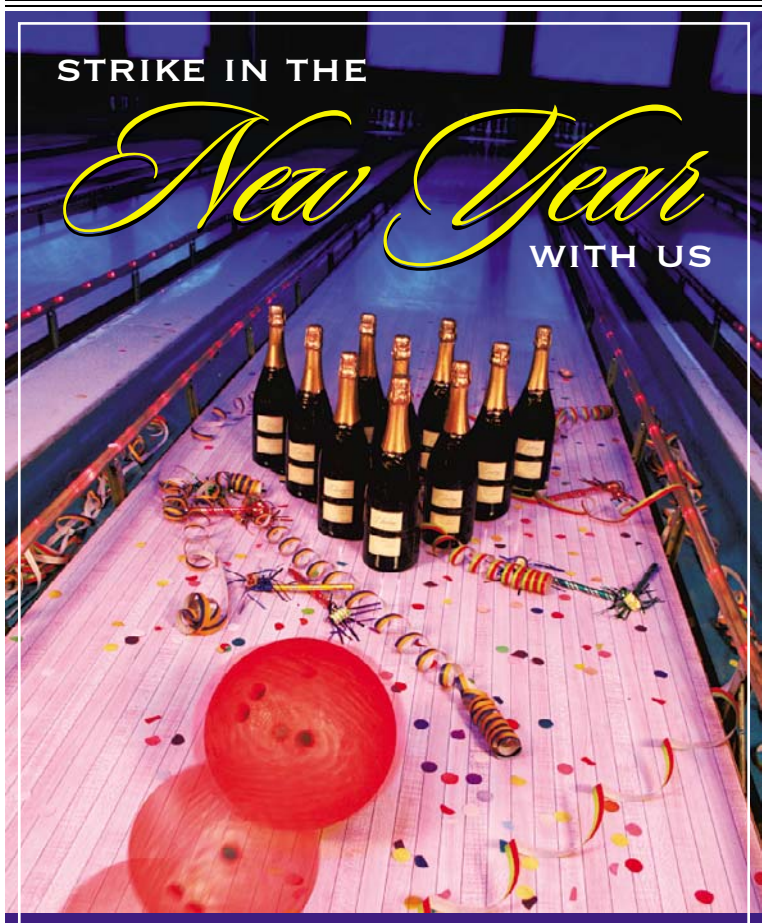

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A Very Quiet Storm

Babyface's latest CD locates the soul of 1970s soft rock

MUSIC | It might seem strange that the first CD of cover tunes by Grammy Award-winning R&B singer-songwriter Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds is a foray into mellow 1970s rock. But reports of "Playlist's" oddness are greatly exaggerated.

First, most of Edmonds' many hit songs transcend stylistic boundaries. And most of the artists he covers — like James Taylor, Eric Clapton and Bob Dylan — were influenced by R&B. (Taylor, in fact, charted four major hits with R&B covers.)

"It's not a stretch, because James Taylor is soulful music to begin with," Edmonds notes. "But the other things, from [Dan Fogelberg's] 'Longer,' to Bob Dylan's 'Knockin' on Heaven's Door,' are soulful. And I think that's the whole key. These weren't arranged in an R&B way; they were arranged in a soulful way."

COURTESY OF THE ISLAND DEF JAM

CROSSOVER APPEAL: Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds redefines R&B with covers of songs that are identified with other genres.

Edmonds says he first heard most of the songs on "Playlist" as a teenager while he was learning guitar.

"They brought to me another sense of melody and chord progressions that I wouldn't hear on the R&B and soul stations," he says. His rendition of Taylor's "Fire and Rain" has gotten the most attention, but his most vivid memory comes from Bread's melancholy "Diary."

"'Diary' was one of those songs that, when you'd go to the bonfires, people would have their guitars, singing and playing it," he recalls. "And that was one of those things that I loved to play as well."

When Edmonds makes a rare live appearance at the Rams Head, he'll also roll out old hits, like "Whip Appeal" and "When Can I See You," plus a medley showcasing songs penned for others, like "If I Could Change the World" (done by Clapton) and "Take a Bow" (done by Madonna). The Indianapolis native is self-effacing about why he gave away such first-rate material.

"The question always comes up, 'Why didn't you just keep those songs for yourself?'" he reveals. "Well, the way I see it, their voices and their energy helped make those songs come alive. Every time I do them, I realize why I let those other people record the songs: Their voices really made them happen."

TONY SCLAFANI

→ *Rams Head OnStage, 33 West St., Annapolis; Sat., 4 p.m., $85; 410-268-4545.*

Season's Greedings

Improv troupe Jackie plunges into the dark heart of holiday jobs

STAGE | There's a reason Washington Improv Theater doesn't have the word "comedy" in it: "While it is funny and we have a lot of laughs," said Molly Murchie, a member of WIT troupe Jackie, "it's got a lot more to it."

While all of the theater's groups find ways to hit the funny bone, Jackie tends to unearth scenes of deeper meaning. The troupe's new "Workin' Overtime" show is its first in a long-form, multi-scene format.

Set in places people have to work through the holidays, "there are a lot of funny situations typical to how people act around each other and at work during the season, but you also get a glimpse of real people and emotions and how the holidays can affect them," Murchie said.

KATIE JETT

WORKING FOR THE WEEKEND: The Jackie troupe takes a leap into the unknown.

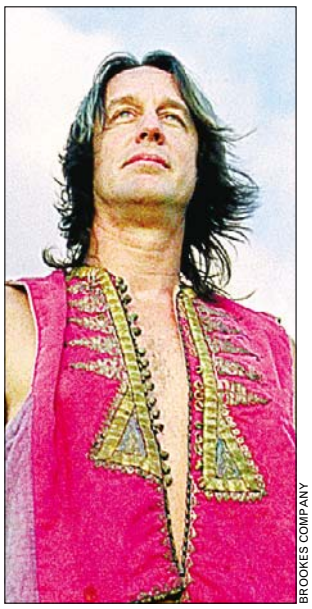
The ensemble nature of the show (six members) and the audience suggestions that kick things off mean the show never gets too static, but don't expect "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"-style games. Still, as is guaranteed with improv, no two shows are alike — even if they start off similarly.

"We practiced one in Cancun and then actually got one in Cancun, and they were totally different shows. And there's always a chance it's going to be something way out there," Murchie said. "You can't think ahead, because when it's not what you were thinking, it's harder to free up and just take the scene as it comes."

"Workin' Overtime" is a chance to see one of WIT's mainstay groups spread its wings and expand its repertoire with a new style of show—or get an introduction to all WIT has to offer. Because, while it's been exciting for the troupe to retrain a little bit and create a lot of laughs in the process, "what's most exciting," Murchie said, "is how many new faces I see each time. And it's bigger and bigger." CHRIS MINCHER

→ *Source Theatre, 1835 14th St. NW; with "Yes, Season Six, There Is a Santa Claus," through Dec. 29, Sat, 9:30 p.m., $12; 202-315-1318. (U St.-Cardozo)*

'70S HITS | HARDWIRED



BROOKES COMPANY

MOVING ON: Todd Rundgren has continued to be progressive, since his days with Yes, as a producer and proponent of the musical value of the microchip. He brings his '70s rock to the Birchmere on Sunday.

Recalling the Funny

In Season Two, 'SNL' underwent changes for better and worse

DVD | Season Two was a transitional period for "Saturday Night Live," then known as the "Saturday Night Show." A year before, the small sketch-comedy show found a large audience in New York City and beyond, making stars of the Not-Ready-for-Primetime Players and especially Chevy Chase, best known for his wry delivery on Weekend Update and his impersonation of a bumbling President Ford.

Halfway through the second season, Chase left the cast to pursue more glamorous projects, and the show floundered briefly without his input as a writer and actor. While it was a major loss, SNL soon righted itself with the addition of a young comedian named Bill Murray, whose fresh face jolted the show out of its repetitiveness.

The second season offers a glimpse of the show during an uncomfortable period of growth.

"SNL" has been endlessly collected and recollected in numerous best-ofs and one-offs, but NBC's exhaustive season sets track the show's many highs and lows, presenting every second of footage as it would have aired 30 years ago. This makes for occasionally frustrating viewing, as it preserves every overlong skit and tired joke, such as Gilda Radner's one-note Emily Litella character, but it also gives viewers a chance to see more of the players who didn't hog the headlines, like Jane Curtin, who gives the Weekend Update segment an intellectual makeover, and Dan Aykroyd, who instills skits like "Bad Playhouse" and "Bad Cinema" with a devious humor.

NBC

The Not-Ready-for-Primetime Players adjusted to changes in their second season.

These sets also highlight long-forgotten elements like Don Pardo's voice-overs, Gary Weiss' weekly short films, great guest hosts like Steve Martin and Eric Idle, and eclectic musical guests like George Harrison, the Band and Frank Zappa, who gives one of the oddest performances of the show's three decades.

Offering a look back at '70s politics and pop culture from the swine flu epidemic to Alex Haley's "Roots" miniseries, the second season in particular offers a glimpse of the show during an uncomfortable period of growth, when it was setting its sights beyond New York City and transforming from a counter-cultural phenomenon into a mainstream institution.

Sure, some jokes fall flat and some skits run on too long, but with such a strong cast, this season remains loose, subversive and genuinely funny. STEPHEN M. DEUSNER

Take 10

THE WASHINGTON POST'S FILM CRITICS TACKLE THIS WEEK'S BOX-OFFICE TOP 10

1 | The Golden Compass

This movie simply delivers too many colorfuls for its own good, none of whom establish a true emotional identity, and thus it isn't moving; it's busy. STEPHEN HUNTER

2 | Enchanted

Disney performs a neat trick of satiric jujitsu with this charming family comedy that celebrates the princess cult it invented while skewering its most saccharin conventions. ANN HORNADAY

3 | This Christmas

In "This Christmas," all the children come home to roost — and so do the chickens. The film doesn't idealize, and that makes it ideal. STEPHEN HUNTER

4 | Fred Claus

Vince Vaughn spends most of his time as a bitter creep, brother to Paul Giamatti's Santa. STEPHEN HUNTER

5 | Beowulf

Director Robert Zemeckis uses motion-capture to conjure fantastical things. But what he hasn't mastered is emotion capture. STEPHEN HUNTER

NEW LINE CINEMA

WHERE TO? "The Golden Compass" pointed to true north at the box office.

6 | No Country for Old Men

This high-end literary thriller, derived from an ultra-violent Cormac McCarthy novel, traffics as much in ideas as in thrills, sometimes to its own detriment. STEPHEN HUNTER

7 | August Rush

Intended as a fuzzy family fable, "August" plays more to the gag reflex than to the heart. DESSON THOMSON

8 | Hitman

Think of bargain-basement "James Bond" amped up video game-style, into TV den-sittin', mouse-clickin' overdrive. But with human actors. DESSON THOMSON

9 | Awake

Awake takes the remote possibility that one might awaken during surgery and puts it in the center of a clever conspiracy. STEPHEN HUNTER

10 | Bee Movie

Adults and children could do worse than to enjoy some chortles during this computer-animated movie with the voice of Jerry Seinfeld as a wise-cracking insect. DESSON THOMSON

Indies&Arties

It's Still Wonderful

The Presidential Film Favorites series winds down with a screening of Ronald Reagan's claimed BFF (best film forever). No, the acting president didn't choose a war film or one of his own flicks; it's the formerly ubiquitous seasonal heart-warmer "It's a Wonderful Life." Frank Capra directed Jimmy Stewart in a holiday fantasy you've probably seen parodied on TV series more often than seen in its original form.

→ NATIONAL ARCHIVES, 700 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. NW; SAT., NOON; FREE; 202-357-5000, ARCHIVES.GOV.

'Mouchette'

Amid all the holiday cheer at movie screens around town, AFI Silver is slipping some sharp edges into its December programming. Sure, the showcase theater will be showing "The Muppet Christmas Carol," "A Christmas Story" and "It's a Wonderful Life." It will also be showing "Mouchette." Yes, Robert Bresson's tough, spare drama about a French village girl who lives a life of unrelenting misery, only to escape into death. The perfect antidote to the likes of "Fred Claus."

NBC

Sorry to give away the ending, but "It's a Wonderful Life" comes out just fine.

→ AFI SILVER, 8633 COLESVILLE ROAD, SILVER SPRING; SUN., 1 P.M., ALSO DEC. 17-19; 301-495-6700. (SILVER SPRING)

Last Testament

Romanian director Cristian Nemescu lost his life just before "California Dreamin'" was finished, but the film won the top prize for Un Certain Regard at this year's Cannes Film Festival. The drama follows the tentative truce reached between American Marines and Bucharest native when a military train is stranded during the Kosovo war.

→ NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, 600 CONSTITUTION AVE. NW; SAT., 2:30 P.M., FREE; 202-842-6799, NGA.GOV. (ARCHIVES-NAVY MEMORIAL)

NIGHTCLUB **9:30** 815 V ST NW DC

DECEMBER

Carbon Leaf w/ Tom McCormack ..... Th 13

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Goapele w/ Franklin Bridge ("America's Next Band") ..... F 14

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The Dance Party • Jukebox the Ghost • Exit Clov • Caverns
Early Show! 6:30 pm Doors. ..... Sa 15
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BLOWOFF
feat. the DJ SOUNDS of **BOB MOULD & RICHARD MOREL** *21+ to enter.* ..... Sa 15

A SOLO PERFORMANCE BY
RUFUS WAINWRIGHT
w/ Lucy Wainwright Roche ..... Sa 22

Bone Thugs-n-Harmony ..... W 26

PATTI SMITH
Friday, December 28

THE WORD - Chris Chew, Cody Dickinson & Luther Dickinson
(of North Mississippi Allstars), John Medeski, and Robert Randolph ..... Sa 29

The Greyboy Allstars w/ All Mighty Senators ..... Su 30

IT HAD TO HAPPEN... NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH THE GODFATHER OF GO-GO
CHUCK BROWN
with special guest appearance by Sugar Bear from EU
w/ Mambo Sauce

JANUARY

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Eric Roberson • Wayna • W.E.S. Felton and more!
w/ *a special performance by* Deborah Bond & Third Logic ..... F 4

BLISSPOP PRESENTS
Tittsworth • Codebreaker •
Will Eastman • Metropolitan ..... Sa 5
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Killswitch Engage
w/ Dillinger Escape Plan • Every Time I Die • Parkway Drive ..... Th 10

The Silver Beats ..... F 11
The Japanese Beatles tribute band...as seen with The Killers!

EDITORS w/ Hot Hot Heat & Louis XIV ..... Tu 15

Blonde Redhead w/ School of Seven Bells ..... W 16

The Clarks ..... F 18

Super Diamond w/ Girlfriend in a Coma (The Smiths Tribute) ..... Sa 19

DJ Shadow & Cut Chemist: "The Hard Sell" ..... Th 24

Cornelius ..... F 25
Online ticket purchasers will be sent unique codes for 3 free downloads.

Super Furry Animals w/ The Fiery Furnaces & Holy F*ck ..... Su 27

As I Lay Dying
w/ August Burns Red • Evergreen Terrace • Still Remains ..... M 28

MN8 PRESENTS
Lupe Fiasco w/ REEMSTARR ..... W 30

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WeekendPass | Entertainment

The Scene

Sound

→THURSDAY

Apex: "College Night," DJ Randy White, VJ Steve Rosa, 9 p.m., $5, free with college ID.
Bangkok Blues: The Griffalos, 7:30 p.m., $5-$10.
Black Cat: Matthew Santos, Panacea, RPM, 9 p.m., $12 (backstage).
Blues Alley: The Marcus Johnson Project, 8 & 10 p.m., $25.
Bohemian Caverns: Sound of the City, 9 p.m., free.
Crossroads: "Jamaica Me Crazy Happy Hour," live reggae, ladies free before 11 p.m. with pass from crossroadsclub.com.
Iota: Richard Buckner, Bitch, 9 p.m., $13.
Jammin' Java: Bob Schneider, AM, 8 p.m., $20.
Kennedy Center: Furia Flamenca, 6 p.m., free. NSO Pops: Happy Holidays! Marvin Hamlisch, conductor, 7 p.m., $20-$85.
NGA Grosvenor Auditorium: Muireann Nic Ahmlaoibh, Teada, 7:30 p.m., $28.
Mirrors: "Phat Thursdays," 9 p.m., $10 for men, ladies free.
9:30 Club: Carbon Leaf, Tom McCormack, 7 p.m., $20.
Rock and Roll Hotel: Brain Damaged, Babies With Rabies, Pessimist Parade, the Screws, Fierce Allegiance, 7 p.m., $10.
Signature Theatre: December Divas, 8:30 p.m., $28.
State Theatre: Santa Jam II, 7 p.m., $10.
Twins Jazz: Dupont T Quartet, 9 & 11 p.m., $20.
Zanzibar: "Familiar Faces," 7 p.m., see zanzibar-otw.com.

→ FRIDAY

Apex: "Ultimate Dance Party," 9 p.m., $9.
Bangkok Blues: Black Cat Blues Band, 7 p.m. Deja Blue, 10 p.m., $5-$10.
Birchmere: Saffire: The Uppity Blues Women, 7:30 p.m., $29.50.
Black Cat: Junior League, Olivia Mancini & the Housemates, Vandaveer, 9 p.m., $10. "Black CATonia," '80s, hip-hop, soul with DJ DK, 10 p.m., free (backstage).
Blues Alley: The Marcus Johnson Project, 8 & 10 p.m., $25.
Bohemian Caverns: Trio Taq, 9 & 11 p.m., $15.
Crossroads: Escape Friday Happy Hour & Dance Party with Kurt Riley, 5 p.m., $20, ladies free before 11 p.m. with pass from crossroadsclub.com.

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TEXAS TROUBADOUR: "Bob Schneider" — doesn't sound like the name of an alt-country force to be reckoned with. But the singer-songwriter, at Jammin' Java on Thursday and Friday, shifts from roadhouse rock to folk melancholy on a dime, and his sad, dirty, witty, plangent tunes are revered around his native Austin.

LOCAL HEROES | NO SYRUP

BRIAN LIU

GOING LIKE HOTCAKES: Shortstack's version of country — with grit under its fingernails — sounds as at home onstage with a punk band as it does with fellow road-less-travelers. The band walks the line at Iota on Friday.

DC9: "Liberation Dance Party," 9 p.m., $6.
Ebenezers Coffeehouse: Christopher Williams, Steph Modder, 8 p.m., $10 ($8 in advance).
Iota: Shortstack, Sons of Bill, 9:30 p.m., $10.
Iota: Honor by August, the Influence, Joey Degraw, 9:30 p.m., $10.
Jammin' Java: Bob Schneider, AM, 8 p.m., sold out.
Jaxx: L.A. Guns, Baby Jane, Wicked Stick, RadioActive, Severed Henge, 7:30 p.m., $20 ($17 in advance).
Kennedy Center: Merry TubaChristmas, 6 p.m., free. NSO Pops: Happy Holidays! Marvin Hamlisch, conductor, 8 p.m., $20-$85.
Mirrors: Lissen Band, 7 p.m., $20 for men, ladies free before 8 p.m., $15 after.
9:30 Club: Goaepele, Franklin Bridge, 7 p.m., $25.
The Red & the Black: Free Lobster Buffet, the Nice Jenkins, Aubriot, 9 p.m., $8.
Residence of the Indonesian Ambassador: Djuliarso, James King, Lenny Robinson, 7:30 p.m., $60.
Rock and Roll Hotel: Mobius Band, Middle Distance Runner, the Epochs, Ravens and Chimes, 8:30 p.m., $12 ($10 in advance). "Heavywax," vinyl dance night with DJs Ivan Ramiscal, Christian Scanniello, 9:30 p.m., free.
Signature Theatre: December Divas, 7 & 9 p.m., $28.
State Theatre: The Legwarmers, 7 p.m., $15.

venues

Apex: 1415 22nd St. NW; 202-296-0505.
Atlas Performing Arts Center: 1333 H St. NE; 202-399-7993.
Bangkok Blues: 926 W. Broad St., Falls Church; 703-534-0095.
Birchmere Music Hall: 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; 703-549-7500.
Black Cat: 1811 14th St. NW; 202-667-7960.
Blues Alley: 1073 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-337-4141.
Bohemian Caverns: 2001 11th St. NW; 202-299-0800.
Crossroads: 4103 Baltimore Ave., Bladensburg, Md.; 301-927-1056.
DC9: 1940 9th St. NW; 202-483-5000.
Ebenezers Coffeehouse: 201 F St. NE; 202-558-6900.
Iota Club & Café: 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-522-8340.
Jammin' Java: 227 Maple Ave., Vienna; 703-255-1566.
Jaxx: 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield; 703-569-5940.
Kennedy Center: 2700 F St. NW; 800-444-1324.
Mirrors: 33 New York Ave. NE; 202-326-0774.
National Geographic Grosvenor Auditorium: 1600 M St. NW; 202-857-7700.
9:30 Club: 815 V St. NW; 202-393-0930.
The Red & the Black: 1212 H St. NE; 202-399-3201.
Rock and Roll Hotel: 1353 H St. NE; 202-388-7625.
Sidney Harman Hall: 610 F St. NW; 202-547-1122.
Signature Theatre: 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-845-0236.
State Theatre: 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church; 703-237-4508.
Strathmore Music Center: 5301 Tuckerman Lane, Bethesda; 301-581-5100.
Twins Jazz: 1344 U St. NW; 202-234-0072.
Velvet Lounge: 915 U St. NW; 202-462-3213.
Verizon Center: 601 F St. NW; 202-661-5000.
Washington National Cathedral: 3001 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-537-5527.
Zanzibar: 700 Water St. SW; 202-554-9100.

Entertainment | WeekendPass

TheScene

Twins Jazz: Michael Hawkins and the Band of Brothers, 9 & 11 p.m., $15.

Velvet Lounge: Nervous Habits, Hollywood, the Swet Band, DJ Geo, 9 p.m., $10.

Washington National Cathedral: United States Scandinavian Youth Choir, 7:30 p.m., $20-$80.

Zanzibar: Tribute to Lucky Dube with Chris Ntaka, Loide, Anna Mwalagho, Jalani Horton, 6 p.m., $20.

➜ SATURDAY

Apex: Kristina Kelly and the Girls of Glamour, DJ Joey-O, VJ Steve Rosa, 9 p.m., $9.

Bangkok Blues: Mike Terpak Blues Explosion, 7 p.m. Mike Lapadula and the Lost Souls, 10 p.m., $5-$10.

Birchmere: Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys, 7:30 p.m., $35.00.

Black Cat: Bio Ritmo's Salsa X-Mas, Nayas, Rattan, 9 p.m., $12. "Metapop," indie-pop, synth-pop, Britpop with DJs Swank, Arcane, 9:30 p.m., $5 (backstage).

Blues Alley: The Marcus Johnson Project, 8 & 10 p.m., $25.

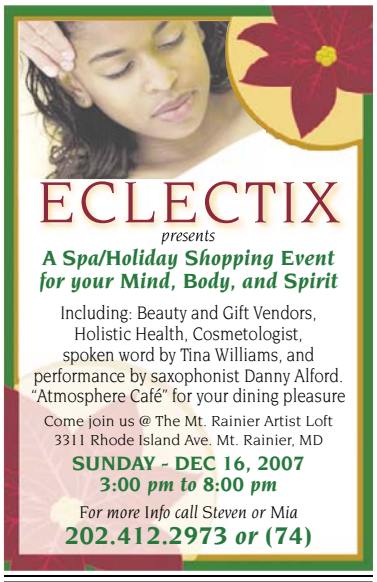
Bohemian Caverns: Cynda Williams, W.E.S. Group, 9 & 11 p.m., $15.

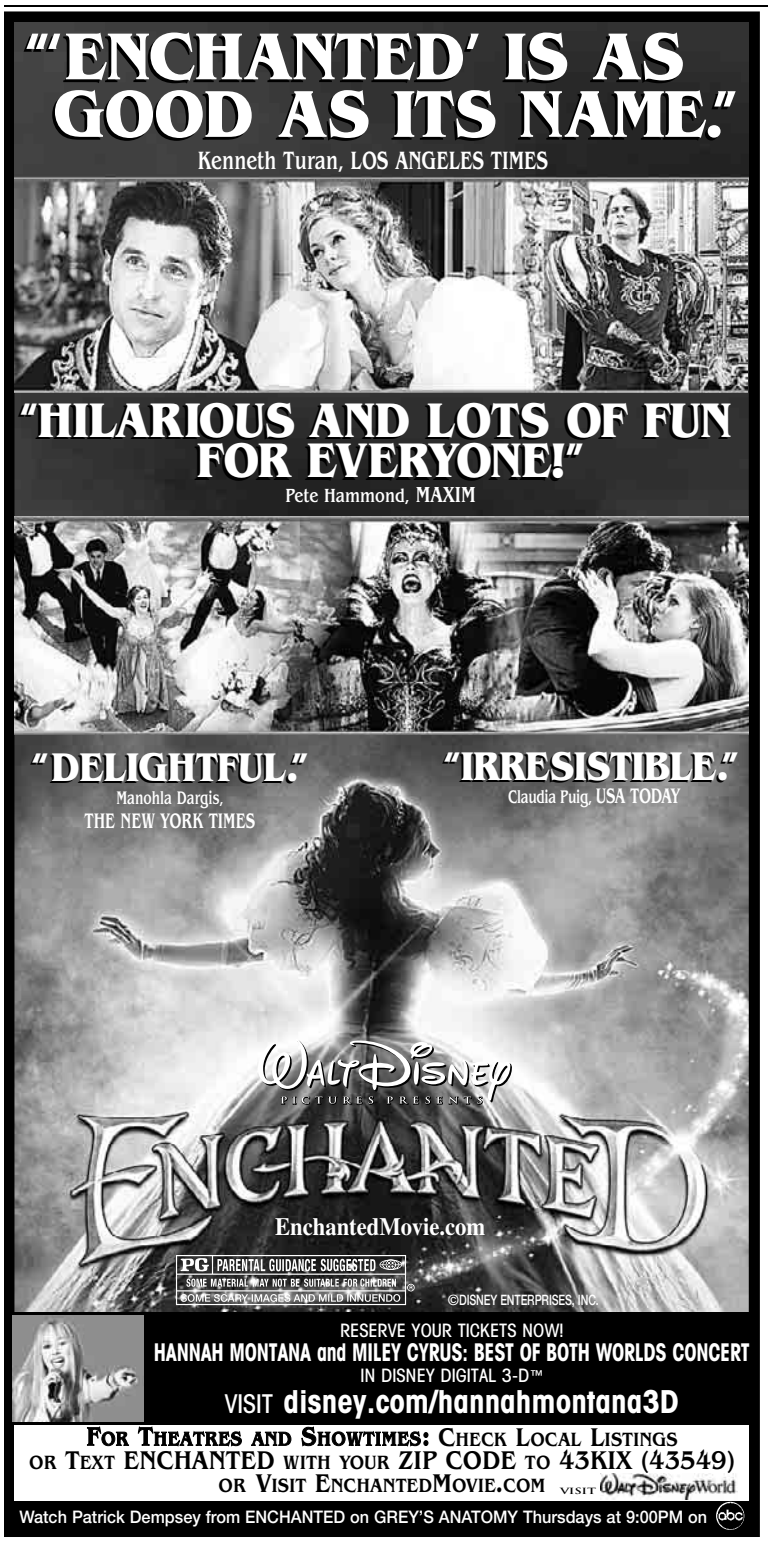
Continued on E22

STAGE | THAT'S SO WRONG

JOAN MARCUS

SPICED HAMS, INDEED: The musical "Monty Python's Spamalot" is now offending the prim, comforting baby boomers and cracking up everyone else at the National Theatre. The pearl-clutching humor runs through Jan. 6.





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FRI 12/14 **MOBIUS BAND** w/ Middle Distance Runner, The Epochs, Ravens and Chimes

HEAVYWAX Free @ the Hotel Bar

SAT 12/15 Scion & Garutachi Present: **"ONCE"** movie screening 9pm + **RIS RICHARDS** (ex Q AND NOT YOU) + Residents Ca$$idy & Austin and DIRTY SANTA Dance Party- w/ BOO Santa!!
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SUN 12/16 **BODOG BATTLEBODOG**

TUE 12/18 **SOUL GLO** Presented by RockCandy Productions: DJs: The Arch Angel Gabriel, Keenan, Rich Edward

WED 12/19 Mister Disco presents: **DRUNKEN JNGA** Free @ the Hotel Bar 21+

FRI 12/21 **HAPPY FKX-XMAS** featuring: **SEE-I** (full band, live performance - record release party) MAT THE ALIEN (Vancouver, Canada) FORT KNOX FIVE, SLANT & BJOO + REX RIDDEM

ROOM 429 Re:sonance DJ's: Michael Darpino & Chris Diamond

SAT 12/22 A Festive Night Out with **THE DENIM BAR** featuring **THE DRUGSTORE COWBOYS** w/ Dj Rob Wonder Dj Dredd+ Dj Tanner

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AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (300 530) 800 1025
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (110 400) 650 940
ENCHANTED (PG) (100 140 345 425) 630 710 920 1000
BEOWULF (PG-13) (205 455) 745 1030
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (210 500) 750 1040
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (310) 640 1010
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) (215 445) 715 945
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) - ID REQ'D (130 430) 720 1015
I AM LEGEND - MIDNITE (PG-13) ★ 1159 PM

BOWIE STADIUM 14
15200 Major Lansdale Blvd 800-FANDANGO 454#

Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale SPIRT OF THE MARATHON (NR) ★
PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) (100 145 315 415 530) 700 815 930 1040
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★ (100 200 400 500) 715 815 1000 1045
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (115 330 545) 800 1015
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (145 230 445 515) 730 800 1015 1050
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (215 500) 745 1030
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (100 315 545) 830 1045
ENCHANTED (PG) (200 430) 700 945
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - $2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (130 400) 645 945
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (100 430) 800
BEE MOVIE (PG) (215 445) 715 930
TYLER PERRY'S: WHY DID I GET MARRIED? (PG-13) (130 415) 730 1030
I AM LEGEND - MIDNITE (PG-13) ★ 1159 PM

BETHESDA 10
7272 Wisconsin Avenue 800-FANDANGO 569#

Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★ (1230 205 300 440 530) 715 800 1030
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (115 330 545) 815 1030
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (230 500) 745 1025
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (100 345) 730 1020
ENCHANTED (PG) (1240 300 530) 800 1020
BEOWULF (PG-13) (220 445) 745 1020
FRED CLAUS (PG) (155 425) 700 940
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 350) 715 1030
BEE MOVIE (PG) (145 400)
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) 730 950
I AM LEGEND - MIDNITE (PG-13) ★ 1159 PM

POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16
3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690#

Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★
PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) (1225 225 255 500) 530 735 805 1005 1035
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★ (120 150 410 440) 700 730 1020
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (110 345) 620 840
OC: THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (425) PM
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (130) 720 800
ENCHANTED (PG) (1245 230 330 515) 615 855
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (105 355) 640 935
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (200 505) 810
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (115 350) 630 900
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - $2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (210 455) 740 1025
FRED CLAUS (PG) (1255 340) 635 920
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (1240 415) 750
BEE MOVIE (PG) (135 400) 645 910
GONE BABY GONE (R) - ID REQ'D (125 420) 710 1000
I AM LEGEND - MIDNITE (PG-13) ★ 1200 AM

COUNTRYSIDE STADIUM 20
45980 Regal Plaza 800-FANDANGO 394#

Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale SPIRT OF THE MARATHON (NR) ★
I AM LEGEND - MIDNITE (PG-13) ★ 1201 AM
PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) (1205 250 510) 750 1035
NOELLE (PG) (1200 230 515) 745 1015
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★ (1140 1220 120 220 320 420 520) 620 720 820 920 1010
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 300 540) 800 1030
OC: THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (355) 950
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (1250) 655
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (130 430) 730 1025
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (100 400) 650 930
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (1230 330) 635 925
ENCHANTED (PG) (1140 1240 140 240 340 440 530) 640 740 940 1020
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - $2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (1245 345) 645 945
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) (105 350) 630 900
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (110 410) 710 1005
FRED CLAUS (PG) (1215 315) 625 910
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (125 500) 830
BEE MOVIE (PG) (1145 215 445) 700 915
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) 810 1040
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) - ID REQ'D (115 415) 715 1000

ROCKVILLE CENTER STADIUM 13
Rockville Town Center 800-FANDANGO 248#

Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★
I AM LEGEND - MIDNITE (PG-13) ★ 1159 PM
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★ (100 200 400 445) 700 745 950 1035
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 300 530) 800 1020
ENCHANTED (PG) (1245 130 345 430) 645 730 930 1010
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (145 430) 730 1015
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (100 400) 700 945
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 245 515) 815 1030
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - $2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (215 500) 745 1025
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (130 415) 715 1005
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (115 500) 830
BEE MOVIE (PG) (1230 330) 630 845
FRED CLAUS (PG) (115 415)
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) 715 945

FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10
4110 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#

Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★
I AM LEGEND - MIDNITE (PG-13) ★ 1159 PM
ENCHANTED - DP (PG) (100 340) 630 910
ENCHANTED (PG) (130 200 410 440) 700 730 940
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (110 140 400 430) 650 720 945 1015
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (250) 620 950
INTO THE WILD (R) - ID REQ'D (300) 640 1000
GONE BABY GONE (R) - ID REQ'D (115 350) 645 920
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (150 450) 715 930
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (120 420) 710 1005

GERMANTOWN STADIUM 14
20000 Century Blvd 800-FANDANGO 455#

Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale SPIRT OF THE MARATHON (NR) ★
I AM LEGEND - MIDNITE (PG-13) ★ 1159 PM
PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) (120 420) 700 1000
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★ (130 230 415 515) 700 800 945
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (130 430) 730 1030
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (215 450) 800 1015
ENCHANTED (PG) (100 200 400 500) 645 745 930 1030
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (115) 715
OC: THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (415) 1015
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (120 420) 715 1000
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (140 430) 730 1020
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (200 500) 815 1040
BEOWULF (PG-13) (145 445) 745 1020
FRED CLAUS (PG) (110 350) 645 940
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (100 445) 815

UA SNOWDEN SQ STADIUM 14
9161 Commerce Ctr Dr 800-FANDANGO 570#

Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★ (1245 145 330 430) 700 800 1035
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (215 445) 745 1020
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 345) 700 1000
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (115 415) 730 1015
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (215 515) 815 1030
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (130) 730
ENCHANTED (PG) (100 200 400 500) 715 1000
BEOWULF (PG-13) (200 445) 745 1030
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (115 415) 715 1015
FRED CLAUS (PG) (100 345) 645 930
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (130 500) 830
BEE MOVIE (PG) (145 400) 645 915
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) 800 1025
OC: AUGUST RUSH (PG) (430) 1010
I AM LEGEND - MIDNITE (PG-13) ★ 1159 PM

MANASSAS STADIUM 14
11380 Bulloch Drive 800-FANDANGO 490#

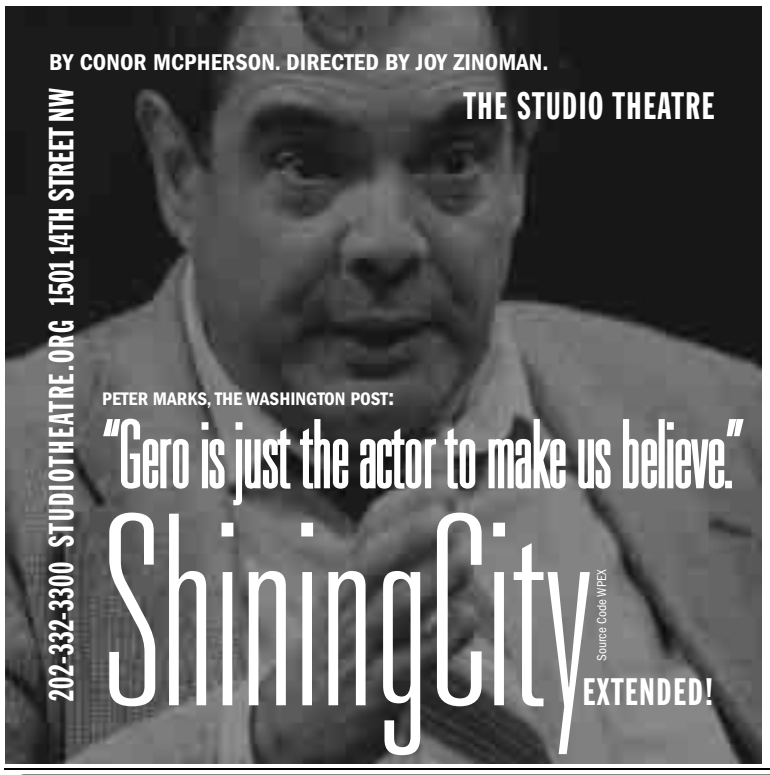
Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★
I AM LEGEND - MIDNITE (PG-13) ★ 1159 PM
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★ (1230 110 325 400) 655 725 940 1010
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 245 450) 755 1000
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (1235 330) 645 930
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 310) 640 925
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 225 440) 750 1025
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (115 410) 735 1020
ENCHANTED (PG) (1205 1250 235 340 500) 705 740
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - $2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (1240 335) 720 955
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (100 350) 715 1005
FRED CLAUS (PG) (1255 345) 655 935
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (1155 315) 630 945
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) 950 PM

Times ©2007 12/13/07 Bargain Matinees In ( ) OC= Open Captioned DA= Descriptive Audio Available DP= Digital Projection * Pass/Discount Ticket Restrictions Apply

WeekendPass makes the weekend noteworthy.

Every Thursday in Express.

XX143b 3x1



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MARYLAND

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Moviefone (301 or 202) 333-3456 #781

BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:30
HOW TO COOK YOUR LIFE (NR) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:35
ATONEMENT (R) 12:30, 1:00, 4:00, 6:30, 7:00, 9:45
LARS AND THE REAL GIRL (PG-13) 3:30, 9:20
MARGOT AT THE WEDDING (R) 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 9:55
REVOLVER (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50
I'M NOT THERE (R) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40

P&G OLD GREENBELT

301-474-9744 · 40 ft. Screen
At intersection of Crescent & Southway

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 5:00, 7:30

LANDMARK'S BETHESDA ROW

7235 Woodmont Ave • (301) 652-7273
Moviefone (301 or 202) 333-3456 #805

BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM
ATONEMENT (R) 1:15, 2:15, 4:15, 5:15, 7:15, 8:30, 9:45
I'M NOT THERE (R) 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:35
MARGOT AT THE WEDDING (R) 12:30, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
INTO THE WILD (R) 1:45, 5:00, 8:15
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:05, 3:40, 7:05, 9:45
LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40
THE DARJEELING LIMITED (R) 3:55, 9:55
BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOUR DEAD (R) 1:10, 7:10

P&G WESTFIELD MONTGOMERY

7101 Democracy Blvd. Beth · 301-767-9555
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM!

ENCHANTED (PG) 3:00, 5:15, 7:35
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) 2:30, 5:00, 7:30
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) 3:05, 5:05, 7:15

P&G WHEATON 11

Westfield Wheaton Mall · 301-949-9201
301-949-9201 · (!) denotes no passes
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VIRGINIA

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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

I AM LEGEND (PG-13)
Thu 11:00 PM

CINEMA ARTS THEATRE

9650 Main St., Fairfax · 703-978-6991
www.cinemaartstheatre.com

REVOLVER (R) 10:10am, 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:30, 9:45
MARGOT AT THE WEDDING (R) 10:15am, 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:20, 9:20
I'M NOT THERE (R) 10:05am, 1:20, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 9:45am, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:00
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) 9:50am, 12:05, 2:25, 4:55, 7:50, 10:05
BELLA (PG-13) 10:00am, 12:10, 4:45, 7:10
LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R) 2:00pm, 9:00

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AMC Select - Special films for select tastes.

AMC HOFFMAN CENTER 22

Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria
703-998-4AMC

DIGITAL 3D

BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40

SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW

I AM LEGEND (PG13) ✓ 12:01 AM

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) 1:50, 3:10, 4:30, 5:50, 7:10, 8:30, 9:50
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) ✓ 1:20, 2:20, 3:20, 4:20, 5:20, 6:20, 7:20, 8:20, 9:20, 10:20
AWAKE (R) 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25
AUGUST RUSH (PG) 1:35, 4:25, 7:25, 10:10
ENCHANTED (PG) 1:30, 2:50, 4:10, 5:30, 6:50, 8:10, 9:30, 10:45
HITMAN (R) 1:10, 2:30, 3:40, 5:00, 6:10, 7:30, 8:40, 10:00
HITMAN (R) [DS] [CC] 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40
THE MIST (R) 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 1:00, 2:40, 4:00, 5:40, 7:00, 8:40, 9:55
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) 2:15, 5:15, 8:15, 10:45
FRED CLAUS (PG) 1:45, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35
LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) 2:05, 5:05, 8:00, 10:30
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 1:25, 5:10, 8:50
BEE MOVIE (PG) 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25

AMC SELECT

NOELLE (PG) 2:00, 4:55, 7:50, 10:15
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:05

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8

Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

HITMAN (R) 2:45, 4:50, 7:10
THE MIST (R) 2:10, 5:00, 7:50
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 2:40, 5:20, 8:00
FRED CLAUS (PG) 4:00, 6:30
ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE (PG13) 2:35, 5:10, 7:40

AMC SELECT

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R) 4:30, 7:30
THE DARJEELING LIMITED (R) 2:00, 4:40, 7:00
GONE BABY GONE (R) 2:50, 5:25, 8:10

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12

800 Shopper's Way, Largo
301-324-4220

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) 12:15, 1:45, 2:45, 4:15, 5:15, 6:45, 7:45, 9:15, 10:15
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) 12:55, 3:55, 6:55, 9:55
ENCHANTED (PG) 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05
ENCHANTED (PG) [CC] 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05
HITMAN (R) 12:35, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:15
THE MIST (R) 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:15, 7:15, 9:00, 10:00
BEOWULF (PG13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 2:05, 6:05, 9:35
BEE MOVIE (PG) 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30
TYLER PERRY'S WHY DID I GET MARRIED? (PG13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7

2772 South Randolph
703-671-0910 801

REVOLVER (R) 2:20, 5:00, 7:30
I'M NOT THERE (R) 2:10, 5:10, 8:00

AMC SELECT

MARGOT AT THE WEDDING (R) 2:00, 4:10, 7:40
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00
BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD (R) 1:40, 4:50, 7:20
LARS AND THE REAL GIRL (PG13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:10
INTO THE WILD (R) 1:50, 4:40, 7:50

LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5

North Bethesda
1-800-FANDANGO #741

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) 1:45, 4:25, 7:15
ENCHANTED (PG) 1:40, 4:15, 7:00
FRED CLAUS (PG) 2:00, 4:30, 7:10
LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) 7:05
BEE MOVIE (PG) 1:50, 4:25

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14

10300 Patuxent Parkway
703-998-4AMC

DIGITAL 3D

BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 1:55, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05

SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW

I AM LEGEND (PG13) 12:01 AM

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) 1:00, 2:00, 2:05, 3:45, 4:40, 4:45, 6:30, 7:15, 7:30, 9:15, 9:50, 10:15
AWAKE (R) 1:10, 3:15, 7:40, 9:55
AUGUST RUSH (PG) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
ENCHANTED (PG) 1:20, 4:05, 6:40, 9:20
HITMAN (R) 12:55, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
HITMAN (R) [DS] [CC] 12:55, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
THE MIST (R) 3:20, 6:15, 9:05
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 1:25, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) 2:10, 4:30, 6:55, 9:35
FRED CLAUS (PG) 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 6:10, 9:40
BEE MOVIE (PG) 1:35, 3:50

AMC SELECT

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 12:50, 3:40, 6:25, 9:25

AMC SPRINGFIELD MALL 10

Loisdale and Franconia Road
703-971-3991

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) ✓ 1:45, 4:20, 7:00
AUGUST RUSH (PG) 4:20, 7:20
ENCHANTED (PG) 1:15, 4:10, 7:05
HITMAN (R) 5:00, 7:45
THE MIST (R) 4:40, 7:30
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:15
BEOWULF (PG13) 4:10, 7:15
FRED CLAUS (PG) 4:00, 7:00
BEE MOVIE (PG) 5:15, 7:30

LOEWS RIO CINEMAS 18

9811 Washingtonian Boulevard
301-948-0906

DIGITAL 3D

BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05

SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW

I AM LEGEND (PG13) ✓ 12:01 AM

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) ✓ 1:30, 2:15, 3:15, 4:15, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 7:45, 8:45, 9:45, 10:25
AWAKE (R) 2:25, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30
AUGUST RUSH (PG) 2:10, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15
ENCHANTED (PG) 1:25, 2:45, 4:10, 5:25, 6:50, 8:00, 9:35, 10:35
ENCHANTED (PG) [CC] 2:45, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35
HITMAN (R) 2:30, 5:05, 7:25, 9:50
THE MIST (R) 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:35
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25
FRED CLAUS (PG) 1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 10:00
LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) 1:55, 4:20, 6:40, 9:10
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 3:00, 6:30, 9:55
BEE MOVIE (PG) 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG13) 12:55, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:20

AMC SELECT

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:35, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14

3111 K Street, N.W.
202-342-6441

DIGITAL 3D

BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:15

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) ✓ 1:30, 2:35, 4:15, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45
AWAKE (R) 1:00, 3:10, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55
AWAKE (R) [CC] 1:00, 3:10, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55
AUGUST RUSH (PG) 1:25, 4:35, 7:35, 10:25
ENCHANTED (PG) 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:20
HITMAN (R) 3:00, 5:05, 8:20, 10:30
I'M NOT THERE (R) 1:05, 4:00, 7:05, 10:10
THE MIST (R) 1:35, 4:40
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 2:15, 5:25, 8:25
LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) 5:00, 10:00
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 1:20, 5:05, 8:45
BEE MOVIE (PG) 1:45
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) 2:10, 7:10

AMC SELECT

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:30
LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R) 4:05, 7:50

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18

2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
703-998-4262

DIGITAL 3D

BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 1:35, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10

SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW

I AM LEGEND (PG13) ✓ 12:01 AM

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG) 1:45, 3:00, 4:10, 5:30, 6:45, 7:50, 9:15, 10:10
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) ✓ 1:30, 2:15, 3:30, 4:15, 5:00, 6:15, 7:00, 7:40, 9:00, 9:45, 10:20
AWAKE (R) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35, 10:00
AUGUST RUSH (PG) 2:00, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55
ENCHANTED (PG) 2:20, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20
ENCHANTED (PG) [CC] 2:20, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20
HITMAN (R) 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:15
THE MIST (R) 1:10, 4:05, 7:10, 10:00
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:05
BEOWULF (PG13) 3:35, 6:30, 9:30
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) 1:50, 4:25, 6:55, 9:20
FRED CLAUS (PG) 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 2:40, 6:10, 9:40
BEE MOVIE (PG) 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20

AMC SELECT

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:05, 4:00, 6:50, 9:50

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16

7850 Tysons Corner Center
703-998-4262

DIGITAL 3D

BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 1:30, 4:25, 7:25, 10:10

I AM LEGEND (PG13) 12:00 AM
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) ✓ 1:25, 2:10, 3:05, 4:15, 5:05, 5:50, 7:00, 8:00, 8:45, 9:40, 10:50
AWAKE (R) 1:05, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:25
AUGUST RUSH (PG) 1:15, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50
ENCHANTED (PG) 1:45, 2:40, 4:20, 5:35, 7:00, 8:10, 9:40, 10:45
HITMAN (R) 1:00, 3:25, 5:55, 8:20, 10:40
THE MIST (R) 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 1:55, 4:55, 7:50, 10:40
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) 1:00, 3:15, 5:35
FRED CLAUS (PG) 1:20, 4:05, 7:05, 9:45
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 1:10, 4:40, 8:05
BEE MOVIE (PG) 2:20, 4:50, 7:15, 9:35
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG13) 7:55, 10:20

AMC SELECT

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE

Jenifer and Wisconsin
202-537-9553

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13) ✓ 2:15, 5:00, 7:45
ENCHANTED (PG) 2:00, 4:30, 7:15
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 2:10, 4:50, 7:40
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) 2:40, 5:10, 7:25
LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) 7:30
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 3:30, 7:00
BEE MOVIE (PG) 2:20, 4:40
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) 1:50, 4:35, 7:15

LOEWS DUPONT 5

1350 19th St.
1-800-FANDANGO #711

AUGUST RUSH (PG) 4:30
WHAT WOULD JESUS BUY? (PG) 4:15, 7:15
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 3:45, 7:00

AMC SELECT

WAR/DANCE (PG13) 7:30
THE DARJEELING LIMITED (R) 4:45, 7:45
INTO THE WILD (R) 3:30, 6:45

LOEWS UPTOWN 1

3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
1-800-FANDANGO #713

SPECIAL MIDNIGHT SHOW

I AM LEGEND (PG13) 12:01 AM

Times for Thursday, December 13, 2007

✓-SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT No passes or discount coupons · [CC] - Closed Captioning · [DS] - Descriptive Video Service

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Eating Around

WINE WEDNESDAYS

You Had Us at 'Fried Food'

In order to show off its vast collection of bottles, Dino has begun to host Wine Wednesdays. Chef Stephan Boillon designs an antipasto trio to accompany three specially selected wines for a reasonable $25 per person.

On Dec. 19, Boillon will be deep-frying up three traditional Italian snacks for a Fritti & Red Wine event. Restaurant owner Dean Gold wants to show that fried food isn't just for beer anymore. He will select three robust Italian reds with low tannins and high acidity to cut through the rich flavor of fried food and refresh the palate. SUEMEDHA SOOD

➜ *3435 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-686-2966, dino-dc.com.*

FARMERS' MARKETS

Outdoor Shopping Still Open For Business in Dupont

Dupont Circle's FreshFarm Market is one of the few D.C. farmers' markets open all year, come rain, snow or shine. FreshFarm is open every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in December (times are subject to change next month).

Find seasonal vegetables such as winter squash and sunchokes, meats from Arlington Natural Meats and seafood from Maryland's Buster's Seafood. The market occasionally holds "Chef at Market" events including demonstrations, tastings, market tours and book signings. Last week, Virginia Oyster Shucking Champion Deborah Pratt did an oyster-shucking demonstration, and Chef RJ Cooper of Vidalia served oyster stew. (SS)

➜ *Dupont Circle FreshFarm Market, 20th & Q streets NW; freshfarmmarket.org.*

WILLIAM KNIGHT

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MM, CHOCOLATE

Do Good While Giving Great

Everyone knows Adams Morgan's Biagio Fine Chocolate houses a wide selection of chocolates from around the world. But what may come as a surprise is that Biago's decadent treats come fair trade-certified. Gift boxes of fair trade-certified chocolates from the farm-owned U.K. brand Divine include silky smooth white chocolate and dark chocolate after-dinner mints.

For a more exotic selection, opt for equitably traded Madagascar chocolates from Malagasy Ltd. Biagio carries Malagasy's award-winning Mora Mora dark chocolate bars and its Sambirano dark chocolate bars. The shop has extended holiday hours from now until Dec. 24, and will be open on Christmas Eve from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., for those with a last-minute shopping list — or a craving. (SS)

➜ *Biagio Fine Chocolate, 1904 18th St. NW; 202-328-1506, biagiochocolate.com.*

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COURTESY TRYST

THE FIRE PLACE: The Mexican Hot Chocolate at Tryst is filled with warming touches, including pureed chipotle chilies.

Toasty Toasting

It may be chilly out, but area bartenders are mixing up heat

HOT STUFF | Though it only sporadically looks a lot like Christmas in Washington, area drinksmiths are mixing up a variety of Yule-kicking elixirs.

At Tryst, patrons cram the overstuffed sofas to sip Pepperminitinis, drinkable candy canes that sail down the bar like toys on an assembly line.

And the crème de cacao-spiked Mexican Chocolate, made with hazelnuts, vanilla powder, cocoa and pureed chipotle chilies, swaddles the taste buds like a warm blanket.

'Tis the season to spot a Who's Who from Whoville in the Willard's Round Robin bar. Mixologist Jim Hewes' traditional warmers are as inviting as the choir singing Christmas carols in the hotel's jewel box of a lobby. The Bishop, mulled port topped with a raft of orange slice, fills the sinuses with notes of hearty allspice. Buttered rum layered with white sugar and lemon zest is a surefire cure for Grinchy tidings.

Sebastian Zutant, the resident sommelier at Proof, has come up with a pair of zingers. The Caramelized Apple features maple syrup, star anise, brown sugar and a luxurious homemade applesauce, all shaken with apple brandy, Chambord and Calvados.

His Sherry Cobbler is a lip-smacking update on a 1920s recipe: cinnamon-infused syrup, spicy pumpkin puree and velvety Lustau sherry draped over shaved ice. This may be the best Sno-Cone ever.

Eric Ripert's recently opened Westend Bistro boasts the prettiest drinks of the season. Bartender Jeremy Onesko's Holiday Sangria is a tarty update on wassail, thick with lush cranberry compote. And the Angel's Kiss feels like a New Year's Eve tradition in the making.

Onesko applies a wafer-thin cross-section of a Honeycrisp apple along the inside of a champagne flute filled with equal parts Lillet Blanc, apple juice and champagne. It's custom-made for toasting.

For people who only have time to squeeze their holiday shopping into weekends, Buzz in Alexandria offers a place of temporary respite.

Comfort foods come in drink form here, such as the Hot Apple Pie: Tuaca-laced steamed cider served with a dollop of ice cream. For a nonalcoholic alternative, try the hot chocolate with mint marshmallows that has a following from afar.

At Equinox, drinkmaster Sino Ahmadi caters to every palate like a Secret Santa, and he has some surprises up his sleeves.

His Sahara Haze — Woodford Reserve, dark rum, cognac and a splash of orange bitters — is delicately rendered. But don't discard the split fig on the rim as garnish: Nibble it as you drink, to get flavors of chocolate and caramel.

CHRISTOPHER CORREA

→ *Tryst, 2459 18th St. NW; 202-232-5500.*
→ *Willard Intercontinental Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 202-628-9100. (Metro Center)*
→ *Proof, 775 G St. NW; 202-737-7663. (Gallery Place-Chinatown)*
→ *Westend Bistro, 1190 22nd St. NW; 202-974-4900.*
→ *Buzz, 901 Slaters Lane, Alexandria; 703-600-2899.*
→ *Equinox, 818 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-331-8118. (Farragut West)*

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The Front Page

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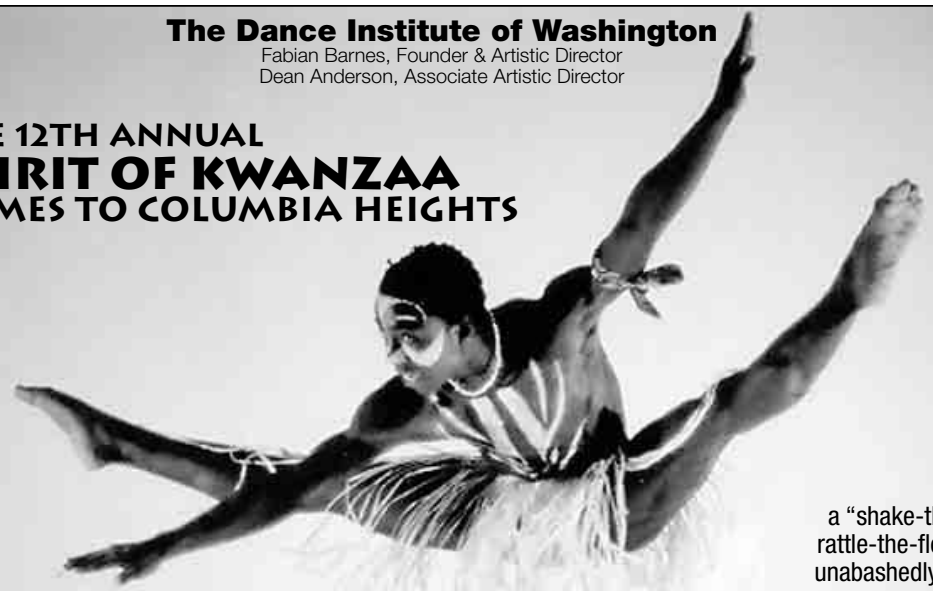

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WeekendPass

TheScene

Continued from E17

Constitution Hall: United States Navy Band, 7:30 p.m., free.
Crossroads: "DJ Super Slic Annual Birthday Bash," with DJs Crown Prince, Tha Vibz, Shiloh Int'l, Hazzard, Black Spider, 10 p.m., $15.
DC9: Konkrete Jungle D.C., Ewun, Tetradin, Dioptrics, Instinct vs. RelicOne, 9 p.m., $10.
Iota: Keith Kane, Kill the Alarm, 5 p.m., $10.
2 p.m., $38.
State Theatre: The Legwarmers, 7 p.m., $15.
Twins Jazz: Michael Hawkins and the Band of Brothers, 9 & 11 p.m., $15.
Velvet Lounge: Flex Matthews, 9 p.m., $10.
Washington National Cathedral: United States Scandinavian Youth Choir, 4 p.m., $20-$80.
Zanzibar: "Reggae on the Waterfront," free before 9 p.m.

➜ SUNDAY

Atlas Performing Arts Center: Capital Hungry for Music Benefit with the U-Liners, Little Pink, Jelly Roll Mortals, Karen Collins & the Backroads Band, the Grandsons, 9:30 p.m., $10.
Jaxx: Chimaira, Kataklysm, Terror, the End, 7 p.m., $20 ($17 in advance).
Kennedy Center: The Washington Chorus: Music for Christmas, 1 p.m., $15-$55. Gospel Celebration: WPAS Children of the Gospel Tour, 6 p.m., free. Jane Monheit, John Pizzarelli, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., $30. NSO Pops: Happy Holidays! Marvin Hamlisch, conductor, 8 p.m., $20-$85.
9:30 Club: Washington Social Club, Laura Burhenn, the Dance Party, Jukebox the Ghost, Exit Clov, Caverns, 6:30 p.m., $15. Blowoff with Bob Mould, Richard Morel, 11:30 p.m., $12.
The Red & the Black: Pete and J, Tereu Tereu, Michael Jantz, 9 p.m., $8.
Rock and Roll Hotel: DJs Ris Richards, Cassidy, Austin, 9 p.m., free.
Sidney Harman Hall: Gabriela Montero, City Symphony, Congressional Chorus, 3:30 p.m., free.
Bangkok Blues: Blues Jam with the Meteors, 7:30 p.m., $5-$10.
Birchmere: Todd Rundgren Band, 7:30 p.m., $35.
Blues Alley: The Marcus Johnson Project, 8 & 10 p.m., $25.
Bohemian Caverns: Cynda Williams, W.E.S. Group, 7 p.m., $15.
Crossroads: "Dancehall Sundays," ladies free before 11 p.m. with pass from crossroadsclub.com.
Iota: Dean Fields, Meika Pauley, 8:30 p.m., $10.
Jammin' Java: Thomas, Signature, the Morning After Pill, 2 p.m., $8. Johnny A, Peter and Alex Guitar Duo, 7:30 p.m., $15.
Jaxx: Vader, Malevolent Creation, Cattle Decapitation, Abigail Williams, Light This City, Veil of Maya, the Seventh Gate, Isetta, Crimson Orchid, Downfall,

STAGE | CREATURE FEATURE

PAUL GORDON EMERSON

WILD TIMES: Mowgli, Baloo, Shere Kahn and Kaa shed their Disney cutesiness as Rudyard Kipling's beloved "Jungle Book" leaps off the page and onto the stage. CityDance Ensemble's exuberant take on the wild tales features live original vocals and music, along with spectacular costumes. "Jungle Book" is at the Lansburgh Theatre on Saturday and Sunday.

Entertainment | WeekendPass

TheScene

Live to Die, 1 p.m., $20 ($18 in advance).

Kennedy Center: Master Chorale of Washington: Christmas Candlelight Concert, 1 p.m., $20-$69. The Kennedy Center Chamber Players perform Works by Schoenberg, Mozart and Dvorák, 2 p.m., $35. High Groove Steelers, 6 p.m., free. NSO Pops: Happy Holidays! Marvin Hamlisch, conductor, 7 p.m., $20-$85.

The Red and the Black: Go Home Robot, Scarab, 9 p.m., $8.

Velvet Lounge: Ghastly City Sleep, Problems, the Aquarium, 9 p.m., $10.

Verizon Center: Trans-Siberian Orchestra, 3 & 7:30 p.m., $39-$49.

Washington National Cathedral: United States Scandinavian Youth Choir, 4 p.m., $20-$80.

REVUE | NAUGHTY & NICE

SCOTT SUCHMAN

SING FOR SANTA: The December Divas — Eleasha Gamble and Tracy Lynn Olivera (pictured) and Jan Pesci Townsend — give audience members a new take on Christmas as they perform sizzling renditions of holiday classics. This swank affair at Signature Theatre's Holiday Nightclub runs through Saturday and includes candlelit tables and holiday tipples.

Zanzibar: "Day Fete" and "Lime," free before 9 p.m., $10 after.

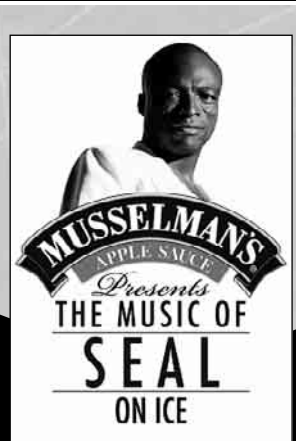
Sight

The Alexandria Black History Museum: "God Has Made a Way in Leesburg," the photographs of Allen D. Carter, through Jan. 20. 902 Wythe St., Alexandria; 703-838-4356, alexblackhistory.org.

Arlington Arts Center: "Hope and Fear," works showing concern for the environment, through Jan. 19. "Winter Solos," three solo exhibitions by Jennifer Levonian, Joe Mannino and Young Kim, through Jan. 19. 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-248-6800, arlingtonarscenter.org.

The Art League Gallery: "Dark Matters," black-and-white photography by Frank

Continued on E24



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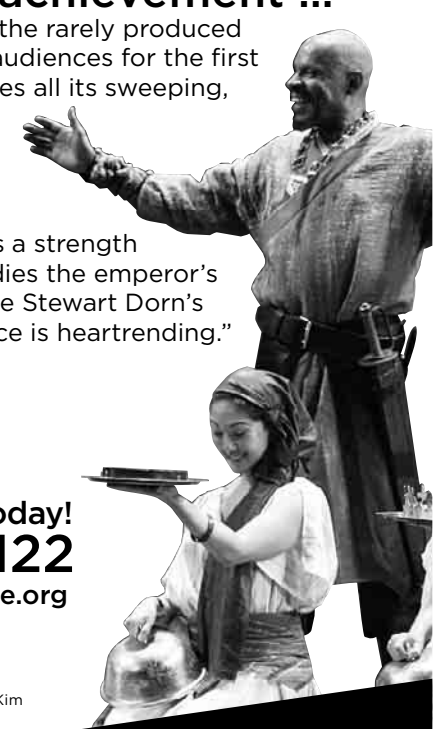

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Photo of Avery Brooks and Amy Kim Waschke by Carol Rosegg.

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6-102	Brighton	2 BR, 2 BA, 1050 Sq. Ft.	$329,000	$_____
3-001	Cambridge SOLD	2 BR, 2 BA, 1191 Sq. Ft.	$339,000	$_____
8-001	Cambridge	2 BR, 2 BA, 1191 Sq. Ft.	$342,500	$_____
3-203	Dartmouth SOLD	3 BR, 2 BA, 1300 Sq. Ft.	$404,000	$_____
1-202	Dartmouth	3 BR, 2 BA, 1300 Sq. Ft.	$406,500	$_____

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The Rising Tide of New French Jazz

THE FUTURE OF jazz is alive and well in its country of origin and other places seized by jazz fever. In fact, American jazzbos might want to watch for the improvisatory juggernaut that is France — yes, France. Hubert Dupont is a renowned bassist, composer and bandleader, and he's bringing his new quartet Dupont T to Twins Jazz on Thursday, thanks to the Alliance Française. Dupont, saxophonist Rudresh Mahanthappa, pianist Yvan Robilliar and drummer Chander Sardjoe make strange, beautiful music together in elegant, off-kilter composition. *Twins Jazz, 1344 U St. NW; Thu., 10:30 p.m., $20; AF members $15; 202-234-7911, francedc.org, twinsjazz.com. (U St.-Cardozo)* ARION BERGER (EXPRESS)

TheScene

Continued from E23

Fierstein, through Jan. 7. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-683-1780.

ARTiculate Gallery: "Around the World and Back," this youth-run art gallery features works centering on travel. 1100 16th St. NW; 202-296-9100, wvsarts.org.

Corcoran Gallery of Art: "Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990-2005," through Jan. 12. "Ansel Adams," 125 photographs from Adams' Lane Collection, through Jan. 27. "Impressionism, Realism, Modernism: Works on Paper From the American Collection," more than 50 etchings, watercolors, drawings, lithographs and pastels, through Sun. 500 17th St. NW; 202-639-1700, corcoran.org.

Curator's Office: "Common Ground," works by Kathryn Cornelius, through Dec. 22. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-387-1008, curatorsoffice.com.

District Fine Arts: "Hit Me With Music," a group photography show showcasing images of musicians, through Feb. 2. 1639 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-333-3545, dfaonline.com.

Ellipse Art Center: "The Narrative Figure," contemporary works on paper and in clay, through Jan. 19, 4350 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington; 703-228-7710, arlingtonarts.org.

Folger Shakespeare Library: "Marketing Shakespeare: The Boydell Gallery and Beyond" explores the birth of the Shakespeare market in England, through Jan. 5. 201 East Capitol St. SE; 202-544-7077, folger.edu.

Freer Gallery of Art: "Tales of the Brush: Literary Masterpieces in Chinese Painting," the confluence of writing and painting in Chinese culture, through Jan. 13. Jefferson Drive & 12th Street SW; 202-633-4880, asia.si.edu.

LAST CHANCE G Fine Art: "Linn Meyers: No Time Like the Present," surreal drawings, through Sat. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-462-1601, gfineartdc.com.

Gallery Plan B: "Group Show," features works priced less than $500, through Dec. 30. 1530 14th St. NW; 202-234-2711, galleryplanb.com.

Goethe Institut: "Muslim Women in Ger-

Entertainment | WeekendPass

TheScene

many," photography depicting aspects of Muslim life in Germany, through Feb. 29. 812 7th St. NW; 202-289-1200.

H & F Fine Arts: "Deep Ellum and Acceptable Detours," Andrew Krieger examines the disconnect between humans and nature, through Jan. 19. "Memebiotics," Andrew Au incorporates science and biomechanics into his prints and drawings, through Jan. 19. 3311 Rhode Island Ave., Mount Rainier; 301-887-0080, hffinearts.com.

view of the artist's career, through Jan. 6. Independence Avenue & 7th Street SW; 202-633-4674, hirshhorn.si.edu.

Honfleur Gallery: "Die Umwelt," a solo exhibit by Arie Mandelbaum, through Jan. 12. 1241 Good Hope Road SE; 202-889-5000, honfleurgallery.com.

LAST CHANCE Japan Information and Culture Center: "Japanese Traditional Pottery," modern takes on traditional Japanese style, through Fri. 1155 21st St. NW; 202-238-6949, us.emb-japan.go.jp/jjcc.

The Jerusalem Fund Gallery: "Bethlehem Under Siege: The Decline of Christianity at Its Birthplace," photographs and Seaman's photographs of the disappearing icebergs, through Feb. 26. 500 5th St. NW; 202-334-2436, nas.edu.

League of Reston Artists: "ArtDeFined," artists take on their own studios as inspiration, through Jan. 4; 12006 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston; 703-200-2620, leagueofrestonartists.org.

Marsha Mateyka Gallery: "William T. Wiley," a solo exhibition of acrylic work, through Dec. 22. 2010 R St. NW; 202-328-0088, marshamateykagallery.com.

Mexican Cultural Institute: "Migration: La Diaspora," explores reasons for mass migration, through Jan. 31. 2829 16th St. NW; 202-728-1875.

OPERA | EASY COME, EASY GO

VALENTIN BARANOVSKY

ROLL THE DICE: A great Russian story — Pushkin's "The Queen of Spades" — meets a great Russian composer — Tchaikovsky — and a great Russian opera company — the Kirov. Kirov Opera stages this tragic morality play about greed, gambling and passion amid the pre-Revolution Russian aristocracy one final time on Friday at the Kennedy Center.

Hemphill Gallery: "Mindless Pleasures," James Huckenpahler's 3-D digital renderings. "Furnishing the Self — Upholstering the Soul," David Byrne explores the majesty of the chair through photography, embroidery and sculptures, both through Dec. 22. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-234-5601, hemphillfinearts.com.

LAST CHANCE Hillyer Art Space: "Beyond the Margins: Selections From Soweto, South Africa," art by black South Africans depicting their struggle for equality, through Fri. "Which Came First? Drawing Conclusions," glasswork by Kari Minnick, through Dec. 20. 9 Hillyer Court NW; 202-338-0680, artsandartists.org/artspace/.

Hirshhorn Museum: "Morris Louis Now: An American Master Revisited," a concise video of modern-day Bethlehem, through Jan. 11. 2425 Virginia Ave. NW; 202-338-1958, thejerusalemfund.com/gallery.

Katzen Art Center: "Abu Ghraib," Fernando Botero responds to the Abu Ghraib incidents with his paintings, through Dec. 30. "Jules Olitski: Late Sculpture," from the Cyclops series, through Dec. 30. "Claiming Space: Some American Feminist Originators" features works from early feminist artists, through Jan. 27. "Dark Metropolis: Irving Norman's Social Surrealism," images of the horrors of war, through Jan. 27. "Sculpture/Architecture," site-specific outdoor sculptures, through Jan. 27. 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW; 202-885-1300, american.edu/katzen.

Keck Center: "The Last Iceberg," Camille

Meridian International Center: "Life at the Edge: The Big Thaw," photographs showing the effects of global warming, through Jan. 20. 1624 Crescent Place NW; 202-939-5568, meridian.org.

National Air and Space Museum: "Treasures of American History," many of the National Museum of American History's choicest items — from Dorothy's ruby slippers to Jacqueline Kennedy's inaugural ball gown — find a temporary home, ongoing. "America By Air," the history of passenger air travel in the U.S., ongoing. 6th Street & Independence Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, nasm.si.edu.

National Archives: "School House to White House," a family-friendly collection of photos and documents from the child-

Continued on E26

Left: Susan Sontag at Petra, Jordan, 1994, chromogenic print, photograph © Annie Leibovitz. From Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990–2005. Mikhail Baryshnikov and Bob Bessere, Cumberland Island, Georgia, 1990, chromogenic print, photograph © Annie Leibovitz, from Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990–2005

ANNIE LEIBOVITZ A PHOTOGRAPHER'S LIFE, 1990–2005

Through January 13, 2008

Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990–2005
Organized by the Brooklyn Museum
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Monolith, Bernardez, New Mexico, 1941, gelatin silver print, The Lane Collection courtesy of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston © 2007 The Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust.

ANSEL ADAMS

Through January 27, 2008

Ansel Adams was organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

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WeekendPass

TheScene

Continued from E25

hoods of U.S. presidents, through Jan. 1, 2008. "The Charters of Freedom," "A New World Is at Hand," "The Public Vaults," the Magna Carta and other treasures, ongoing. Constitution Avenue between 7th & 9th streets NW; 202-357-5300, archives.gov.

National Building Museum: "Lasting Foundations: The Art of Architecture in Africa," a survey of African architecture through the ages, through Jan. 20. "David Macaulay: The Art of Drawing Architecture," playful and precise drawings of architecture and engineering, through Jan. 21. "Marcel Breuer: Design and Architecture," explores houses, shapes and volumes, through Feb. 17. 401 F St. NW; 202-272-2448, nbm.org.

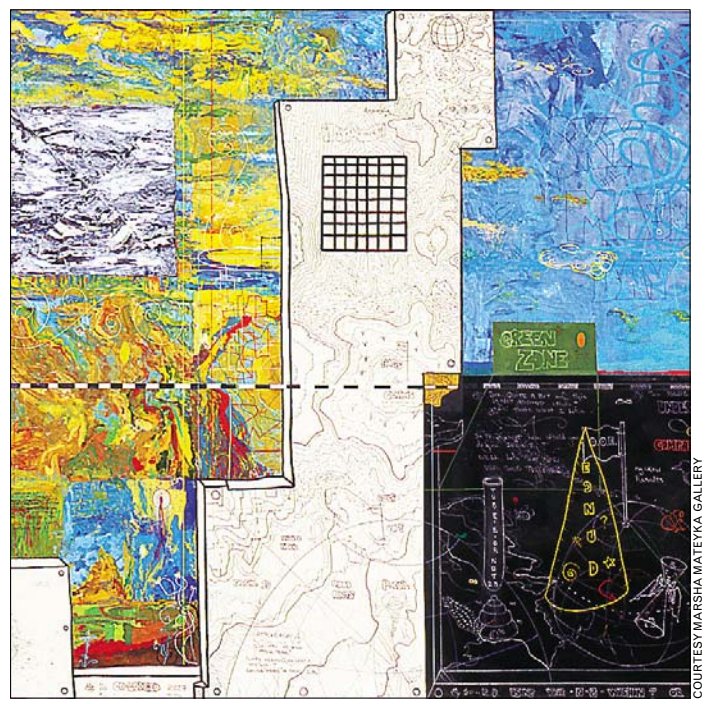
National Gallery of Art: "The Art of the American Snapshot, 1888-1978: From the Collection of Robert E. Jackson" chronicles the evolution of the photograph through history, through Dec. 31. "J.M.W. Turner," the largest collection of works by the legendary landscape artist in the U.S. "Edward Hopper: An Introduction to the Exhibition," a comprehensive exhibition of Hopper's work, through Jan. 21. "Exceptional Baroque Woodcuts" features work from European baroque artists, through March 30. "Five Decades of Robert Raushenberg Prints" features lithographs, screen-prints and intaglios, through March 30. 600 Constitution Ave. NW; 202-289-3360, nga.gov.

National Geographic Museum: "Journey to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," explore the Artic through photographs and items from the 1956 Murie expedition through the Arctic, through Jan. 27. "Crittercam: The World Through Animal Eyes," a video- and data-gathering tool worn by wild animals offers insights into animal behaviors, through Jan. 8. "Journey to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," through Jan. 27. "Extreme Dinosaur," features fossils of the Nigersaurus, a gigantic flying reptile, through March 18. 17th & M streets NW; 202-857-7588.

National Museum of African Art: "Art of Being Tuareg: Sahara Nomads in a Modern World," features jewelry, clothing and leatherwork of the Tuareg people, through Jan. 27. "African Vision: The Walt Disney-Tishman African Art Collection," through Sept. 7, 2008. 950 Independence Ave. SW; 202-633-1000, nmafa.si.edu.

National Museum of the American Indian: "Identity by Design: Tradition, Change and Celebration in Native Women's Dresses," through Jan. 2. 4th Street & Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-6985, nmai.si.edu.

GALLERY | CHANGING FACES



COURTESY MARSHA MATEYKA GALLERY

THE POWER OF THINGS: William T. Wiley's "Choosing Things Over Time" is a series of tidy abstracts that speak to the subconscious. The works at Marsha Mateyka Gallery are as different from Wiley's witty nods to art history as they are from his abstract expressionist sculpture or his experimental films.

Entertainment | WeekendPass

TheScene

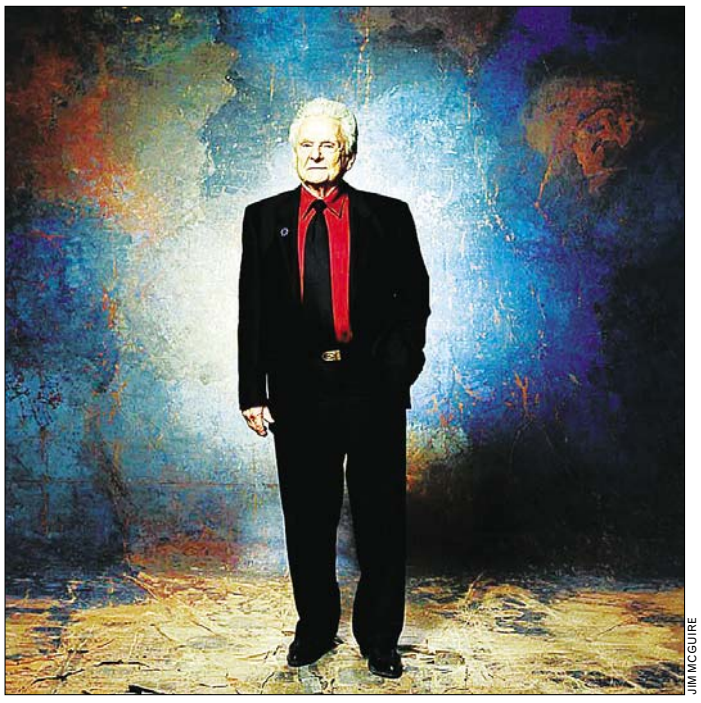
National Museum of Health and Medicine: "Estrogen Tales: The Untold Story of Nine Molecules ... and How They Bonded," find out the molecular makeup of the female hormone, ongoing. "Expression of Hope," works by artists suffering from lysosomal storage disorders, through March 3, 2008. 6900 Georgia Ave. NW, nmhm.washingtondc.museum.

LAST CHANCE National Museum of Women in the Arts: "WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution," through Sun. 1250 New York Ave. NW; 202-783-5000, nmwa.org.

National Portrait Gallery: "Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraits" through March 2; "Legacy: Spain and the United States in the Age of Independence, 1763-1848," portraits and original documents surrounding Spain and the Revolutionary War, through Feb. 10. "One Life: Katharine Hepburn," portraits and Hepburn's Oscars, through Oct. 5, 2008. "Portraiture Now: Framing Mem-

Continued on E28

LIVE BLUEGRASS | ROOTS IN THE SOIL



JIM MCGUIRE

NATIONAL TREASURE: Grammy-winner and bluegrass mainstay Ralph Stanley and his Clinch Mountain Boys come to the Birchmere on Saturday. Still kickin' at age 80, Stanley's as active as ever, made an appearance at Bonnaroo this summer and released a new album earlier this year.

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Traditional gypsy dance with modern flamenco.

14 FRI ★ *MERRY TUBACHRISTMAS!*
Traditional Christmas music with tuba, sousaphone, and euphonium. Bring your instrument to rehearsal at 3 p.m.

15 SAT ★ Gospel Celebration: WPAS Children of the Gospel Choir
Washington metropolitan-area youth gospel choir presents a holiday program.

16 SUN ★ Easton High School's High Groove Steelers
Steel drum troupe presents *Caribbean Christmas*.

17 MON ★ The Countertop Quartet
Explores music for upper voices.

18 TUE ★ Gospel Celebration: The Sweet Heaven Kings
Gospel brass and percussion ensemble performs holiday music.

19 WED ★ Bob Perilla's Big Hillbilly Bluegrass
A blend of hard-driving bluegrass, country, and folk music.

20 THU ★ The Worldwinds Ensemble
Led by the Assistant Principal Bassoon of the NSO, the ensemble explores the variety of repertoire for woodwinds. ■

21 FRI ★ Junkyard Saints
New Orleans Christmas music.

22 SAT ★ Gospel Celebration: Isaiah D. Thomas / Elements of Praise
Singer Isaiah D. Thomas with a 17-member gospel choir and full band.

23 SUN ★ Prelude
Straight-ahead and smooth jazz arrangements of holiday classics. ■

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24 MON ★ Monumental Brass Quintet
Classical, Dixieland jazz, ragtime, and traditional holiday favorites. ■

25 TUE ★ All-Star Christmas Day Jazz Jam
Millennium Stage tradition with host and vibraphonist Chuck Redd, pianist Robert Redd, drummer Lenny Robinson, trumpeter Tom Williams, bassist James King, and vocalist Delores Williams.

26 WED ★ Billy McComiskey & Friends w/ Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance
Traditional Irish music.

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STAGE | SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER

STAN BAROUH

BAH, HUMBUG: Bruce Nelson stars in Rep Stage's adaptation of "The Santaland Diaries" by David Sedaris. Nelson plays a disgruntled elf working at Macy's during the holidays, and let's just say the behavior of parents, children and even Santa is the opposite of heart-warming, but very funny.

TheScene

Continued from E27

ory," portraits of iconic figures including Martin Luther King Jr., Frida Kahlo, Jacqueline Kennedy, Cesar Chavez and Josephine Baker, through Jan. 6. 8th & F streets NW; 202-633-1000, npg.si.edu.

Nevin Kelly Gallery: "Attainable Art," features works priced less than $1,500 by fine local artists including Sondra Larkin, Laurel Hausler and Ellyn Weiss, through Dec. 30. 1517 U St. NW; 202-232-3464, nevinkellygalery.com.

The Phillips Collection: "Contemporary Photographs from the Litchenberg Collection," through Jan. 6. "Impressionists by the Sea," a look at the movement's beachy works, through Jan. 13. 1600 21 St. NW; 202-387-2151, phillipscollection.org.

Randall Scott Gallery: "Intervals," photography by Margot Quan Knights that explored the passage of time, through Jan. 19. 1326 14th St. NW; 202-332-0806, randallscottgallery.com.

Renwick Gallery: "Going West! Quilts and Community," quilts from the frontier, through Jan 21. Pennsylvania Avenue & 17th Street NW; 202-633-1000.

Smithsonian American Art Museum: "Celebrating the Lucelia Artist Award,

Friday in

The Washington Post | *Weekend Section*

Loud Tidings: The Trans-Siberian Orchestra's symphonic rock shakes up Christmas at the Verizon Center. | *Music Makers*

➔ Also, the Town Dance Boutique in Shaw; 'Holiday Trains and Planes' for children; reviews of all the latest movies.

Entertainment | WeekendPass

TheScene

2001-2006," features the work of artists who have won the award since 2000, through June 22; "Kindred Spirits: Asher B. Durand and the American Landscape," through Jan. 6; "Over the Top: American Posters From World War I," inspirational posters in support of our boys over there, through Feb. 3. 8th & F streets NW; 202-633-1000, americanart.si.edu.

Studio Gallery: "Sizing Up," large and small works, through Dec. 23. 2108 R St. NW; 202-232-8738, studiogallerydc.com.

Target Gallery: "Molded Earth," ceramics by local artists, through Jan. 20. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-838-4565, torpedofactory.org.

The Textile Museum: "Textiles of Klimt's Vienna," the artistic values of early 20th-century Austria, through Jan. 6. "Ahead of His Time: The Collecting Vision of George Hewitt Myers" explores the collection of the museum founder, through Jan. 6. "Private Pleasures: Collecting Contemporary Textile Art," textiles of Washington collectors, through Feb. 17. 2320 S St. NW; 202-667-0441, textilemuseum.org.

Transformer: "Wall/Paper," unframed paintings, prints, photos and drawings, through Jan. 19, 1404 P St. NW; 202-483-1102, transformergallery.org.

U.S. Botanic Gardens: "A Midnight Clear," winter landscape displays for the holidays, through Jan. 6. "Glorious Winter," nature photography by Roger Foley and Barbara Southworth, through Jan. 6. 100 Maryland Ave. SW; 202-225-8333, usbg.gov.

Washington Printmakers Gallery: "Hanging in There," prints by Pauline Jakobsberg, through Dec. 30. 1732 Connecticut Ave. NW: 202-332-7757, washingtonprintmakers.com.

VSA Arts: "Driven," an exhibition of lively, revealing work by emerging artists with disabilities, through Dec. 31. S. Dillon Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive SW; 202-628-2800, vsarts.org.

Zenith Gallery: "Low Country," works depicting South Carolina life, through Dec. 30. 413 7th St. NW: 202-783-2963, zenithgallery.com.

Stage

LAST CHANCE Alone It Stands: Keegan Theatre presents the uplifting story of the Munster Rugby Team, through Sat., $20. Theatre on the Run, 3700 Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington; 703-892-0202, keegantheatre.com.

Antigone: The Forum Theatre reimagines Sophocles' tragedy, through Dec. 30, $18-$20. H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE; 800-494-8497, forumtd.org.

LAST CHANCE A Visit From St. Nicholas: Find out what happens the night before Christmas, through Sun., $10. Silver Spring Stage, Colesville Road & University Blvd., Silver Spring; 301-593-6036, ssstage.org.

Breath, Boom!: A woman's journey out of the streets and into maturity, through Jan. 6, $29. Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; 202-232-3300, studiotheatre.org

Christmas Carol 1941: Dickens' classic set in wartime D.C., through Dec. 30, $59-$74. Arena Stage, 1101 6th St. SW; 202-488-3300, arenastage.org.

SATURDAY ONLY Coyaba Dance Theater: Contemporary West African dance performed in celebration of Kwanzaa, 4 p.m., $15. Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St. NE; 202-399-7993, atlas arts.org.

Edward II: Shakespeare Theatre Company takes on Marlowe's lurid play, through Jan. 6, $23.50-$79.75. Sidney Har-

Continued on E30

GALLERY | STILL AND ALWAYS

MARGOT QUAN KNIGHT

STOPPING TIME: Margot Quan Knight's painterly photographs in the series "Interval" recall Caravaggio and Sam Wood-Taylor, and focus on the still, silent, endless moments of experience amid the chaos of life. The prints of "Interval" — including the peaceful but eerie "Float," above — are at Randall Scott Gallery beginning on Saturday.

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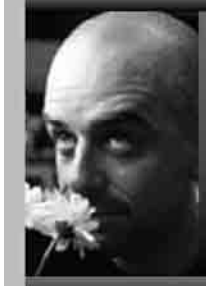

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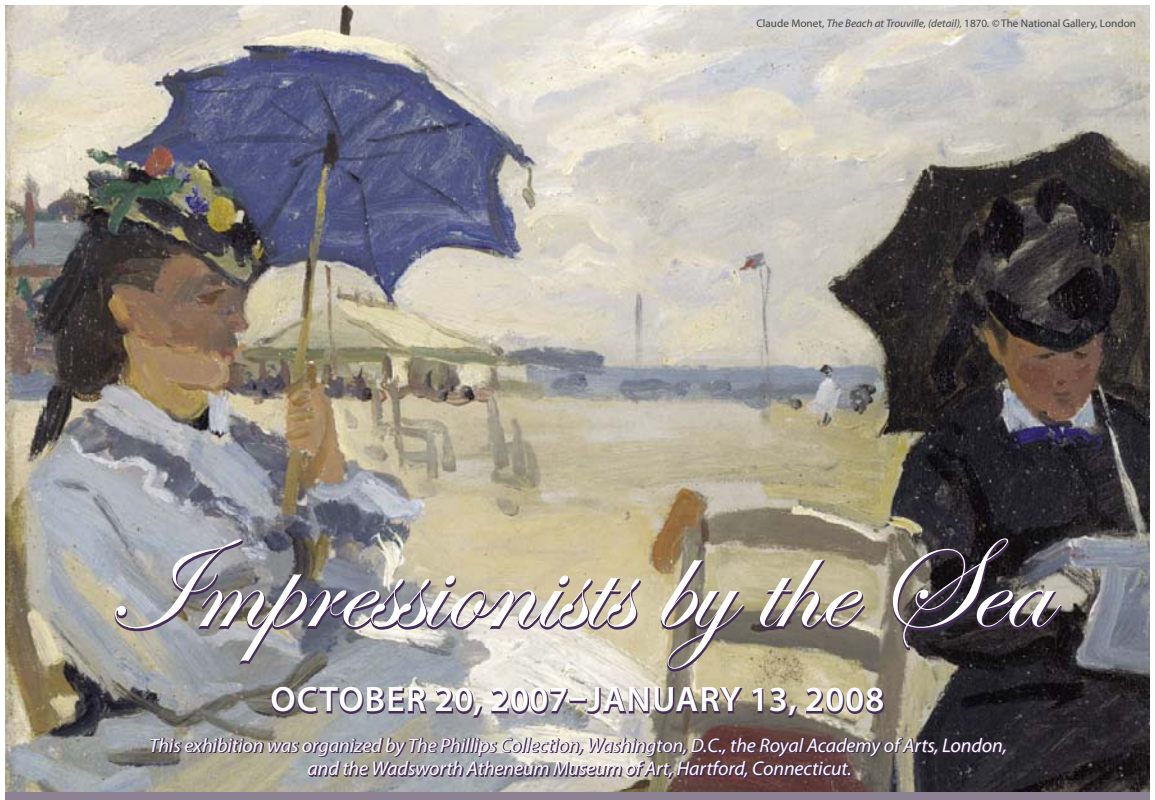

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STAGE | ROASTING A CHESTNUT

RAYMOND GNIEWEK

MULTITASKING: What would the holidays be without "A Christmas Carol"? The always inventive dance-theater troupe Synetic stages this holiday chestnut with a characteristic bar-raising twist — only five actors play all the roles. It's at Rosslyn Spectrum Theater through Dec. 23.

TheScene

Continued from E29

man Hall, 610 F St. NW; 202-547-1122, shakespearetheatre.org.

Fiddler on the Roof: The exuberant musical about love and family, through Jan. 6, $25-$46. Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney, Md.; 301-924-3400, olneytheatre.org.

The House of Yes: The story of a dysfunctional McLean family, through Jan. 13. Clark Street Playhouse, 601 S. Clark St., Crystal City; 703-418-4808, washington shakespeare.org.

LAST CHANCE Jungle Books: The CityDance Ensemble tells Kipling's tale through dance, through Sun., $30. Lansburgh Theatre, 450 7th St. NW; 202-547-1122, wpas.org.

Kafka's Dick: Alan Bennet's acerbic play staged by Washington Shakespeare Company, through Jan. 13, $25-$35. Clark Street Playhouse, 601 S. Clark St., Crystal City; 703-418-4808, washington shakespeare.org.

Love and War: The Bard's Women: An original play pays tribute to the women of Shakespeare, through Dec. 16, $10. Greenbelt Arts Center, 5 Crescent Road, Greenbelt; 301-441-8770, greenbeltartscenter.org.

LAST CHANCE The Maids: The Scena Theatre stages Jean Genet's class parable, through Sun., $25-$32. Warehouse Theater, 1021 7th St. NW; 703-683-2824, scenatheatre.org.

LAST CHANCE Shining City: The story of a haunted Dublin, through Sun., $39-$57. Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; 202-232-3300, studiotheatre.org

The Nutcracker: The Washington Ballet, through Dec. 23, $30-$90. Warner Theatre, 13th & E streets NW; 202-783-

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THIS WEEKEND ONLY The Quest for Marriage Island: How to help your relationship survive the holidays, improv style, Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m., $8. D.C. Arts Center, 2438 18th St. NW; 202-462-7833, dcartscenter.org.

The Santaland Diaries: A sardonic take on the holidays, as presented by the Rep Stage, through Dec. 23, $17-$25. Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia; 410-772-4900, repstage.org.

The Second Shepherds' Play: A medieval mystery play with early music, through Dec. 30, $40-$48. Folger Consort, 201 East Capitol St. SE; 202-544-7077, folger.edu.

Shlemeil the First: Fabulous folk tales from Isaac Bashevis Singer, through Jan. 20, $15-$50. Theater J, 1529 16th St. NW; 202-777-3210, theaterj.org.

The Snow Child: Julia Tasheva performs this children's wintery puppet show, through Jan. 6, $15. Classika Theatre, 4041 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-824-6200, classika.org.

Spamalot: "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" in musical form, through Jan. 6, $46.50-$96.50. National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 800-447-7400, nationaltheatre.org.

Spunk: Three of Zora Neale Hurston's short stories adapted into one musical, through Dec. 23, $20. Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St. NE; 202-399-7993, atlas arts.org.

Tamburlaine: A hero rises from thief to emperor in Christopher Marlowe's play, through Jan. 6, $23.50-$79.75. Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St. NW; 202-547-1122, shakespearetheatre.org.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Tappers with Attitude Youth Ensemble: Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 4 p.m., $22. Dance Place, 3225 8th St. NE; 202-269-1600, danceplace.org.

Twice Upon a Time: Dr. Seuss' The Lorax and The Emperor's New Clothes: New musical takes on old classics, through Jan. 13, $10-$20. Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda; 301-280-1660, imaginationstage.org.

LAST CHANCE The Waverly Gallery: Didactic Theatre Company presents Kenneth Lonergan's play about Alzheimer's, through Sat. D.C. Arts Center, 2438 18th St. NW; 462-7833, didactictheare.com.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY When Elmo Grows Up: Elmo and the gang plot out the rest of their lives, Thu.-Sun., $15-$18. 4400 University Drive, Fairfax; 202-397-7328, patriotcenter.com.

Workin' Overtime: Washington Improv Theater shows what happens behind the scenes in shops, through Dec. 29, $5-$12. Source Theater, 1835 14th St. NW; 202-315-1318, washingtonimprovtheatre.com.

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THE BARD'S WOMEN HERE: If there were two things Shakespeare knew about, they were love and war. So Hilary Kacser and Jennifer Crooks wrote "Love and War: The Bard's Women," which explores the role of women in Shakespeare's plays. It's at Greenbelt Arts Center through Dec. 16.

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